

Keen

JULY 10c

DETECTIVE FUNNIES



ROCKY BAIRD



CAP'N JIM



BROKEN SKULL



WOOD POLICE

and -



An Action
Story

"The
Clock"

Mystery
Detective





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

Alias the CLOCK

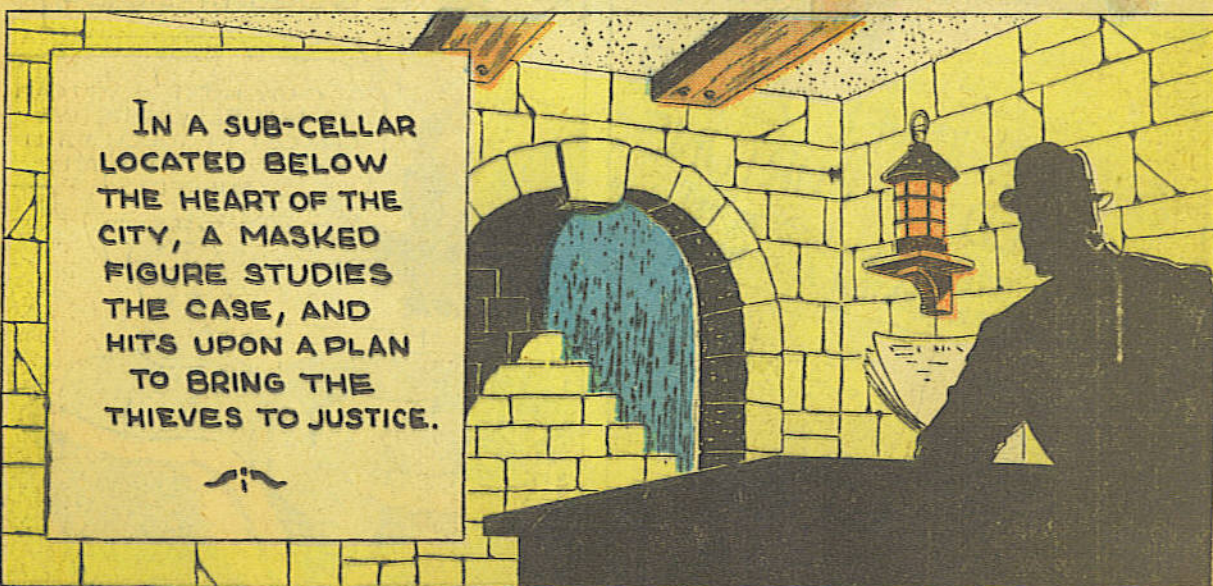
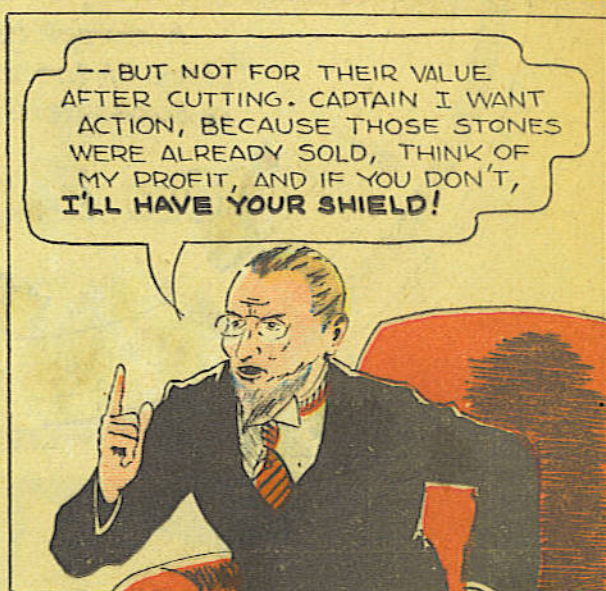
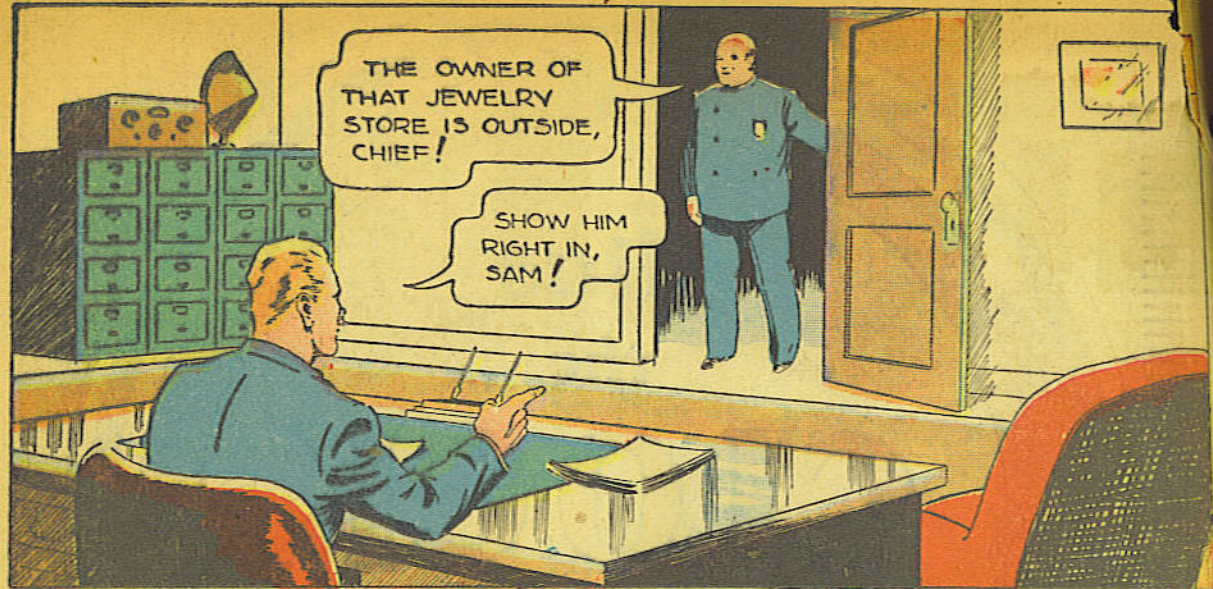
A complete gripping
story of the underworld and
a super-detective by---

GEO. E. BRENNER.



68





WATCHMAN HUNT, ON DUTY AGAIN
MAKES HIS ROUNDS AGAIN- WHEN-



PSSSSST--
BILL!!



WHAT TH'-- I THOUGHT I
TOLD YOU MUGS TA LAY LOW
'TILL AFTER THIS THING BLEW
OVER!



RAISE THEM WILLIE!--
-YOU DIDN'T TELL
ME THAT!

THE
CLOCK!

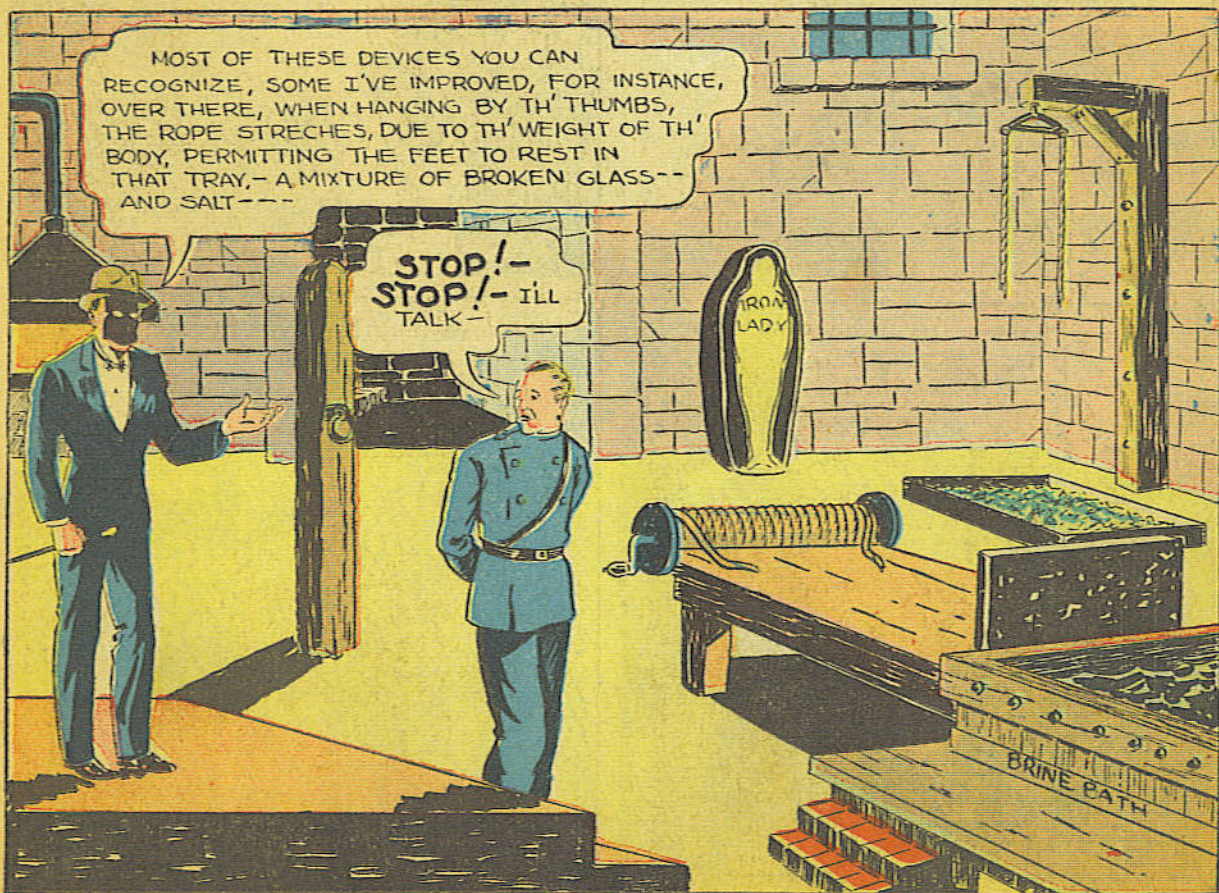
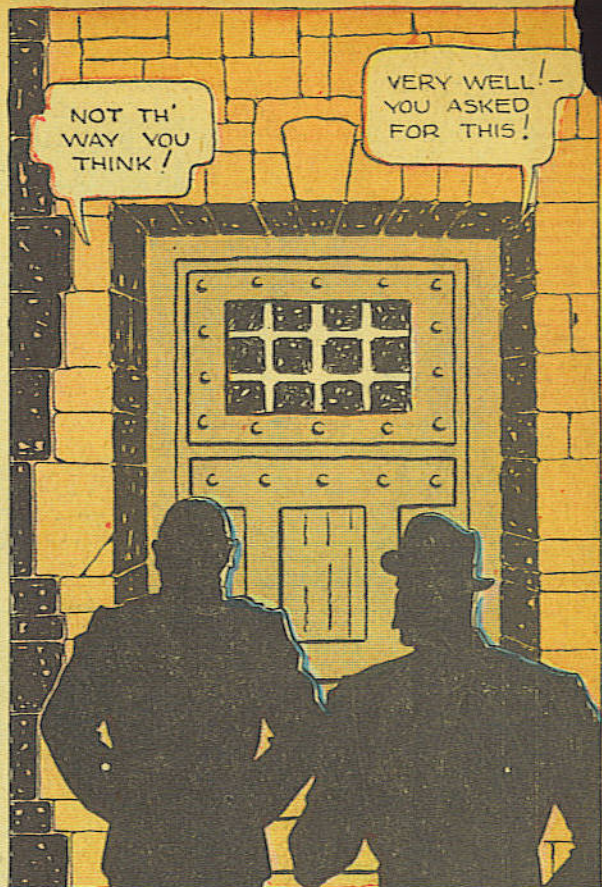
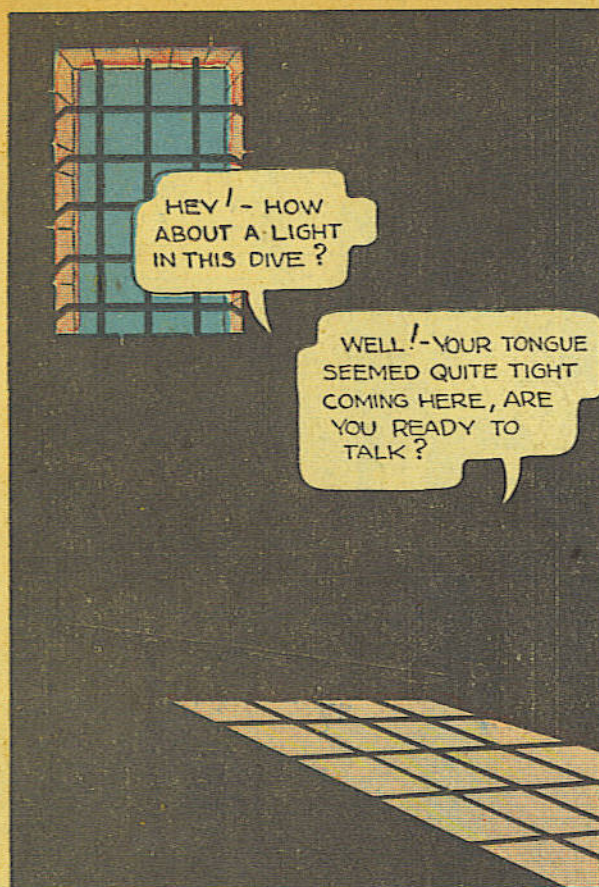


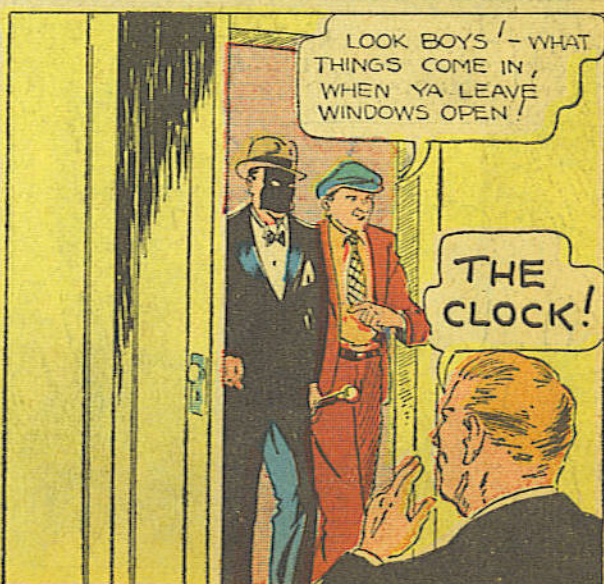
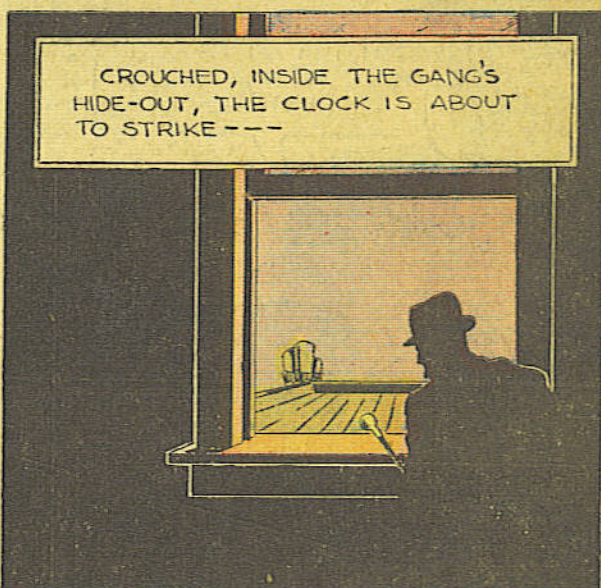
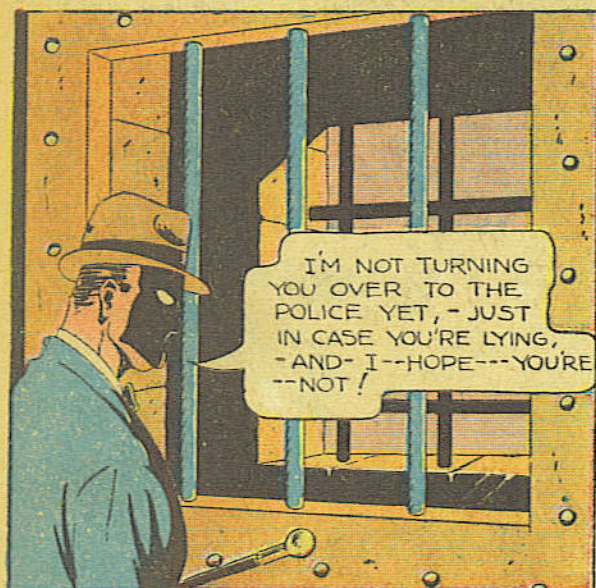
RIGHT TH' FIRST TIME, AND
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME A
LOT MORE!

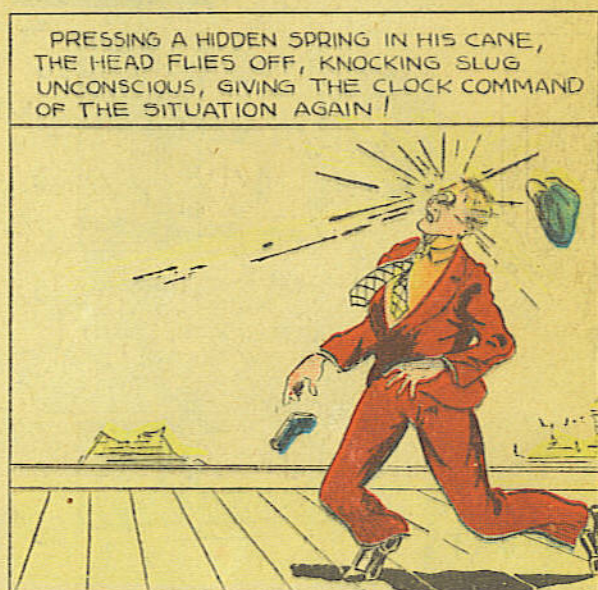
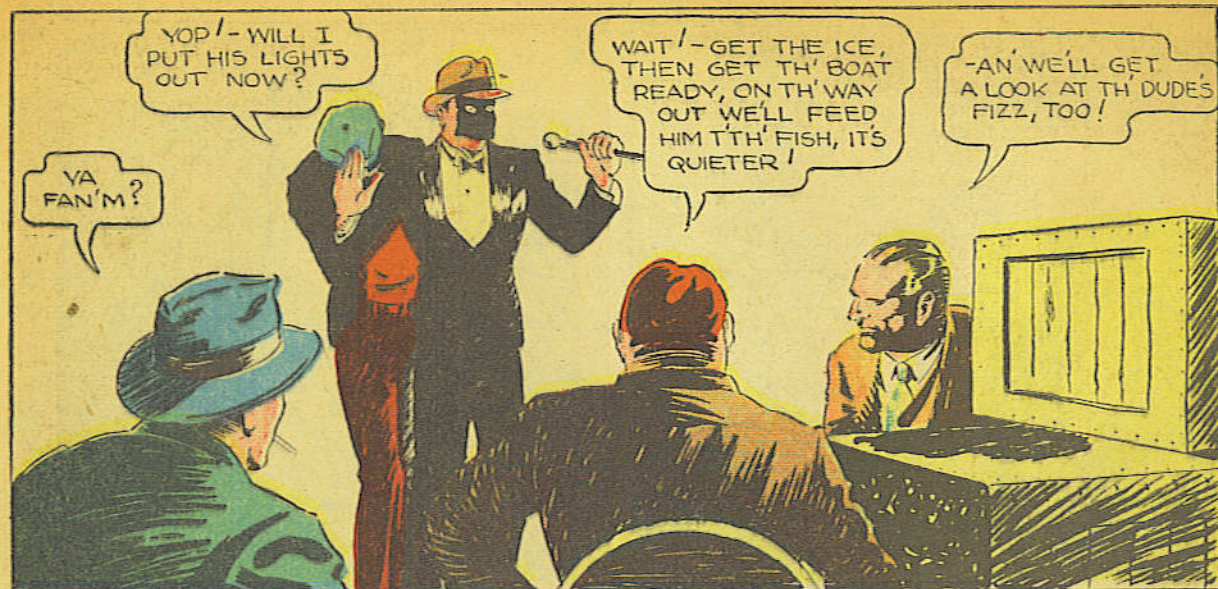


WE'D BETTER GO OVER TO
MY PLACE, IN CASE YOU DECIDE
NOT TO TALK, I THINK THIS
PLACE WILL BE SAFER WITHOUT
YOU ANYWAY!





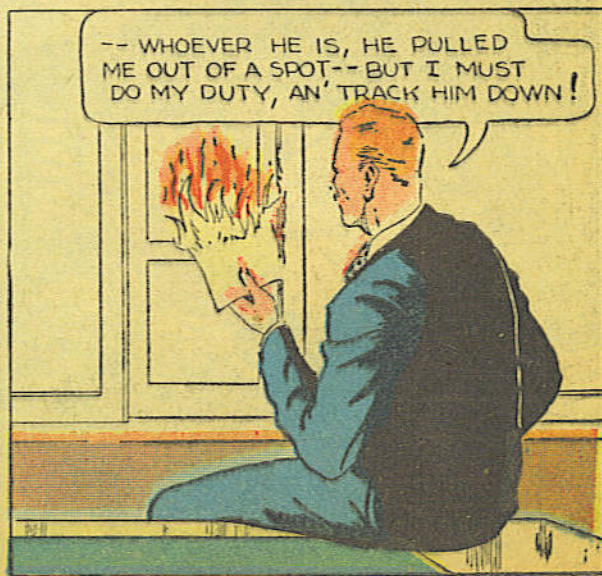
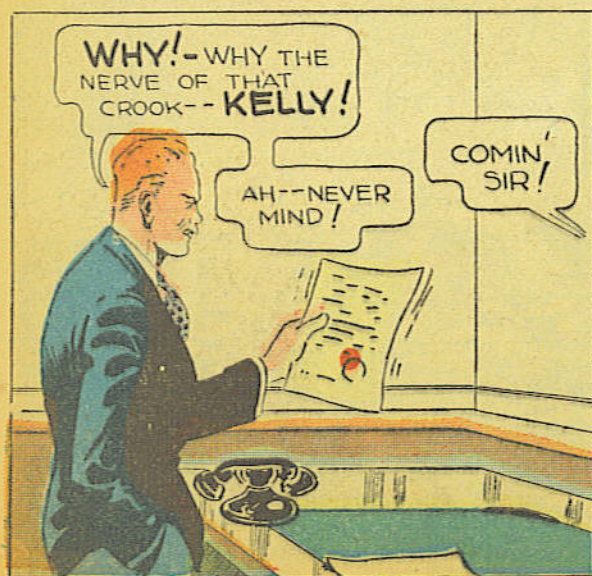




My dear Captain:
 If you will go to 24 River Street,
 you will find the gang who robbed Barlow's
 jewelry store. On the corner of Elm and
 Maine Streets, you will find the leader,
 Bill Hunt, chained to a light pole. The
 gang is yours to do with as you please.
 I suggest giving them life. The stones are
 mine, to be converted into money and
 distributed among the poor of the city.
 Thru investigation, I found
 that Barlow, (the old skin-flint)
 has more money than he can use.
 Please take full credit for this
 arrest.



P.S. Don't forget a hack-saw



Another Episode of "THE CLOCK" in the Next Issue

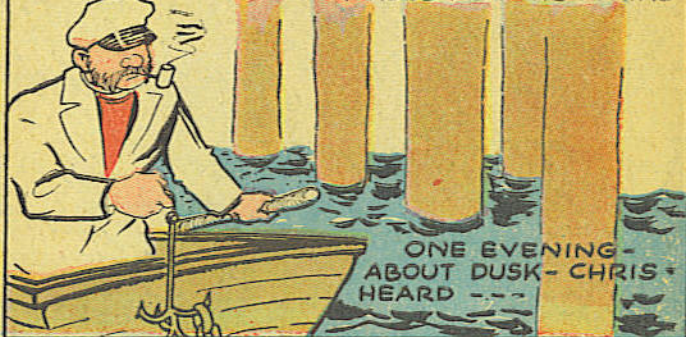
BAYFRONT COWBOY

by

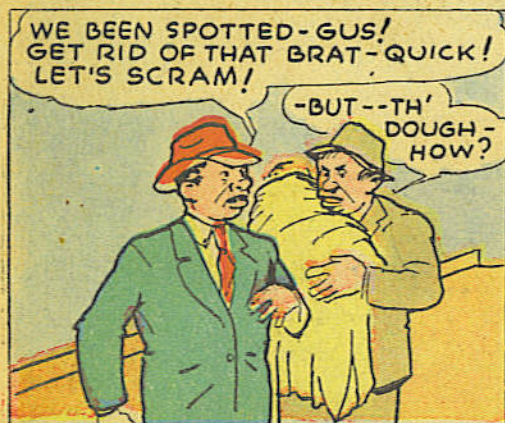
ELLIS EDWARDS

A
COMPLETE DETECTIVE
STORY IN PICTURES

THE SEAFARING FOLK HAD GIVEN OLD CHRIS HIS NICKNAME OF "BAYFRONT COWBOY" UNTIL IT BECAME AS FAR-REACHING AS SOME OF THE TALES THEY TOLD OF HIS THIRTY YEARS ON A WHALER. IF THE DEADLY ACCURACY OF CHRIS' GRAPPLING HOOK BROUGHT ONLY A PIECE OF BROKEN ANCHOR CHAIN OR A CASE OF CANNED GOODS TO THE SURFACE THERE WERE STILL SOME WHO REMEMBERED A YOUNGER CHRIS, BUCKING A FOAMY SEA IN THE PROW OF A LONGBOAT--HARPOON POISED FOR THE STRIKE--

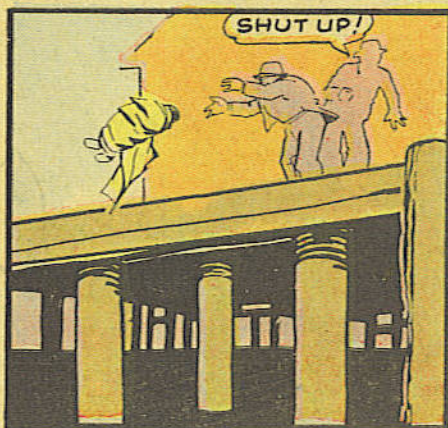


ONE EVENING--
ABOUT DUSK--CHRIS
HEARD ---



WE BEEN SPOTTED-GUS!
GET RID OF THAT BRAT-QUICK!
LET'S SCRAM!

-BUT--TH'
DOUGH-
HOW?



SHUT UP!



SPLASH!



BY JINGO! THEM LUBBERS MUSTA
HAD SOMETHING ON THEIR CONSCIENCE!
THROWIN' A POOR LITTLE TIKE IN TH'
BAY AN' THEN RUNNIN' AWAY!

I FISHED EM OUTA THIS
BAY AFORE THIS - BUT THIS
IS TH' FIRST TIME I EVER
BROUGHT ONE OUT ALIVE!



A SHOT IN TH' BACK
AIN'T NICE TO THINK
ON - BUT I GUESS
THEM FELLERS WAS
IN TOO BIG A HURRY
TO CARE WHAT
HAPPENED TO TH'
BABY -



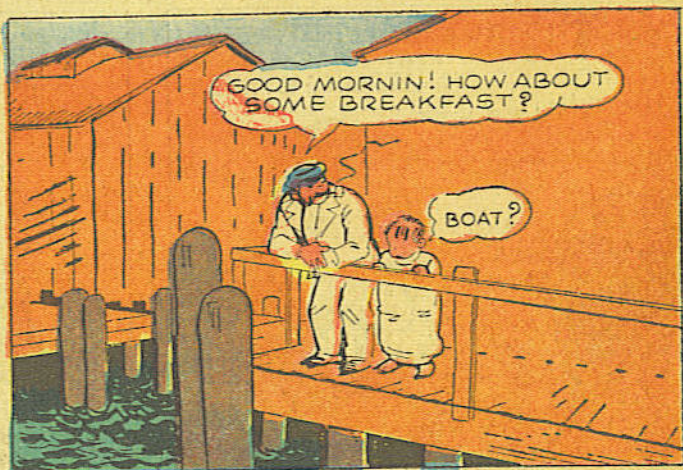
BY JINGO-ITS GOOD T'
GET HOME- SOME HOT
SOUP AN' DRY CLOTHES-



POOR LITTLE FELLER! HE'S
PLUMB TUCKERED OUT - -
OH-HE'LL BE CHIPPER AS A BUG
IN TH' MORNIN' - -



GOOD MORNIN! HOW ABOUT
SOME BREAKFAST?



BOAT?

WHAT'S YOUR NAME -
SONNY?

SONNY!



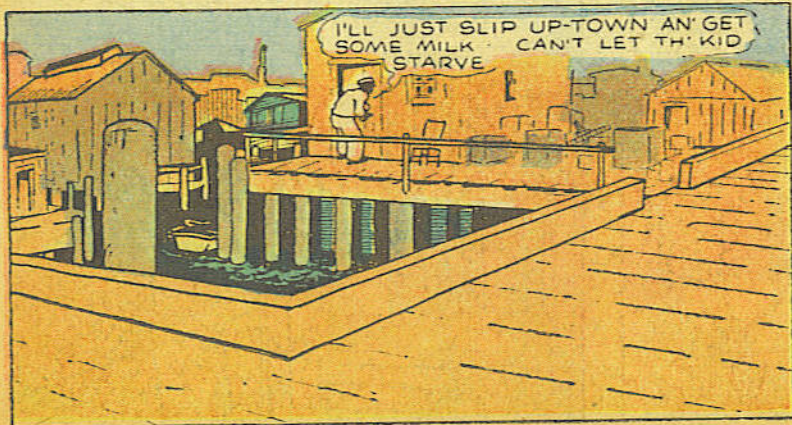
SONNY, YOU STOW THIS AWAY -
AN' THEN WE'LL GO FIND YOUR
FOLKS - IF WE CAN!



WELL! ITS PLAIN
TO SEE YOU GOT
NO LIKIN' FOR
BEANS -



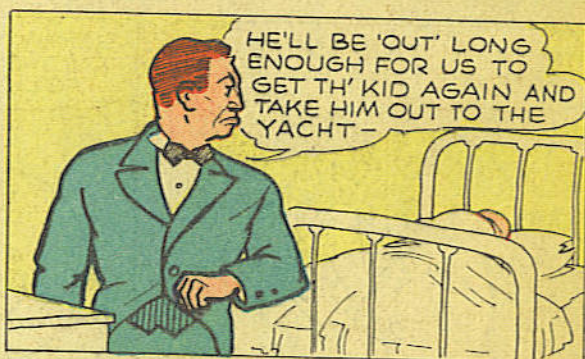
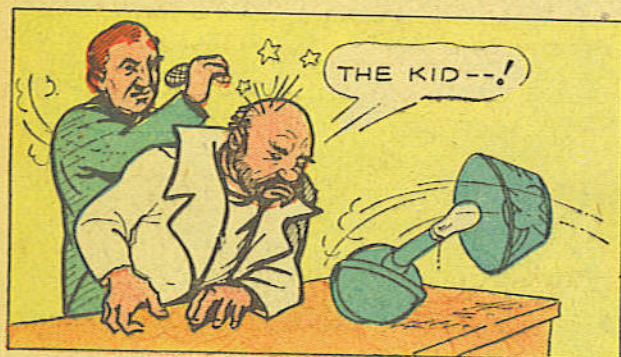
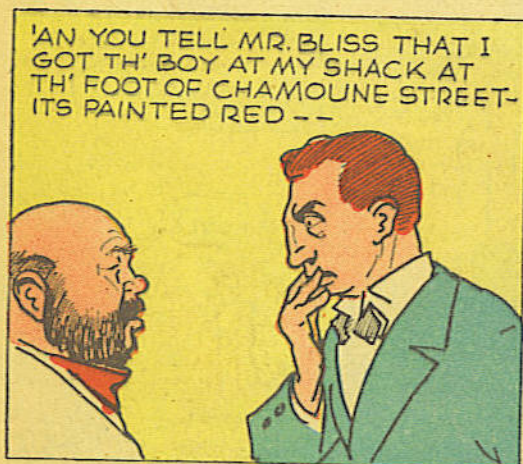
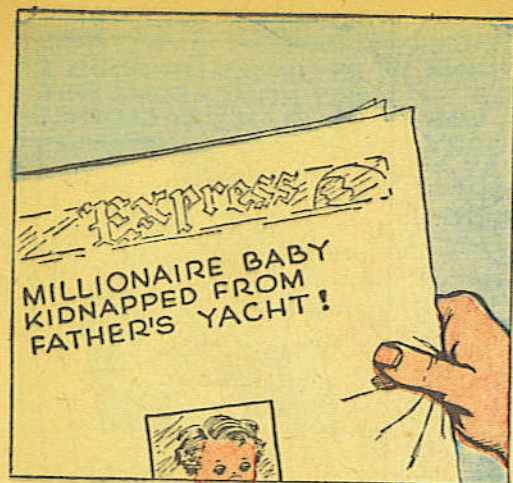
I'LL JUST SLIP UP-TOWN AN' GET
SOME MILK - CAN'T LET TH' KID
STARVE



WUXTRY! MILLIONAIRE'S
BABY KIDNAPPED!



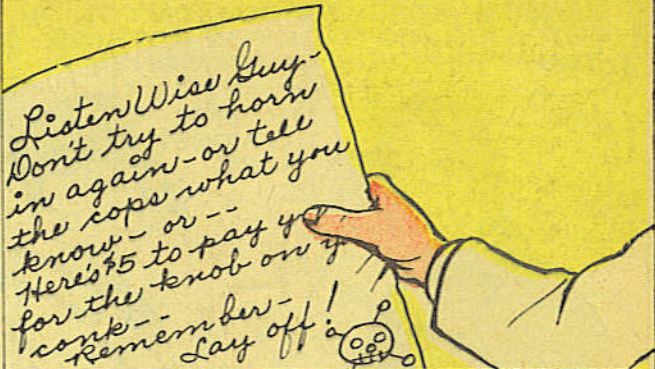
WHAT?



SO! TH' KIDNAPPERS ARE
WRITING TOME-NOW!



Listen Wise Guy-
Don't try to horn
in again-or tell
the cops what you
know- or --
Here's \$5 to pay you
for the knob on y
cork--
Remember-
Lay off!



I BEEN BLUFFED BY
EXPERTS BUT AIN'T BACK
WATERED FOR NONE-YET!



THE PAPER SAID BLISS'
YACHT WAS RIGHT HERE
IN TH' BAY-BY JINGO! I'LL
ROW AROUND TILL I FIND
HER -- BLISS
MIGHT BE ON
THE YACHT--



GUESS I'LL TAKE
OLD GRAPPLE ALONG
I MIGHT PICK-UP
SOMETHIN'



THERE'S BLISS' YACHT-- WHAT IN
TARNATION! SOMEBODY'S A-FIRIN'
AT ME--THAT BULLET COME PRETTY
CLOSE!



THE LUCK! ITS ALMOST
IMPOSSIBLE TO HIT THAT OLD
'SNITCH' BOBBING AROUND LIKE
A CORK --



WHY DID YOU SHOOT AT THAT MAN?
YOU DISOBEYED MY ORDERS--HAND
OVER YOUR GUN!



MR. BLISS-I-I

GET THIS-MISTER BLISS! I'VE GOT A GUN AND I'LL USE IT--WHERE'S THAT RANSOM MONEY? YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU'D GET YOUR KID BACK FOR NOTHING-DID YOU- WHERE'S THAT MONEY!

I HAVEN'T THE MONEY HERE

BLAST YOU! TRYING TO TRICK US AGAIN-EH?

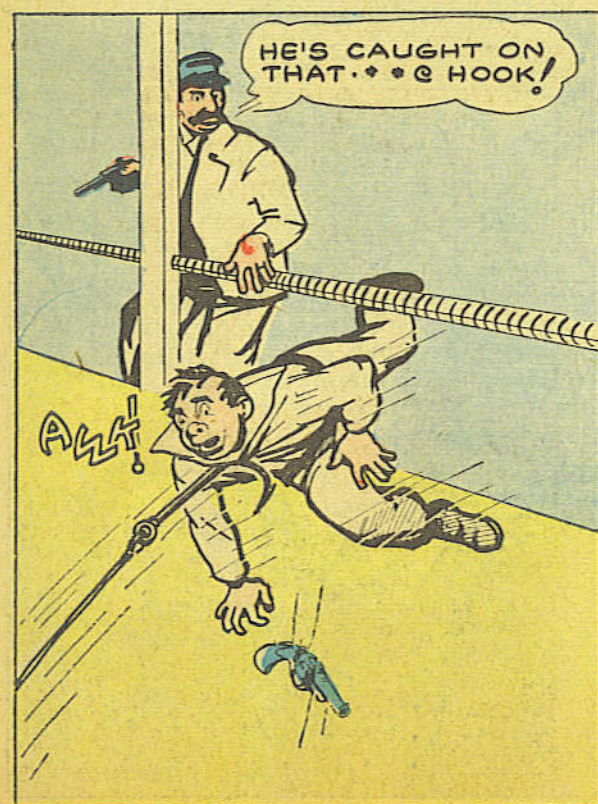
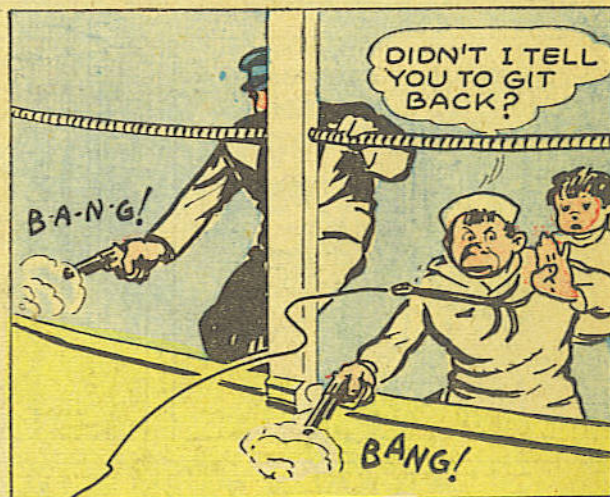
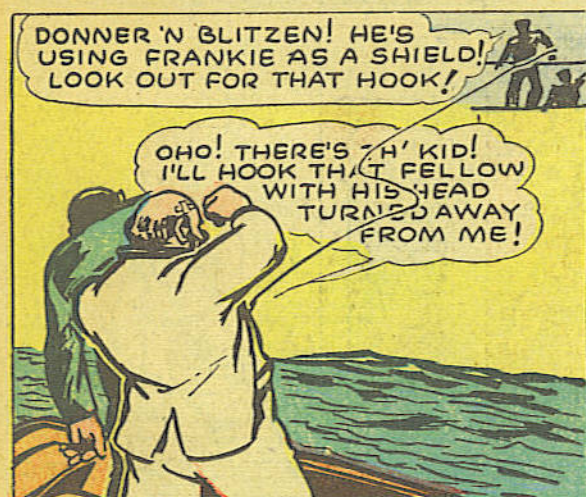
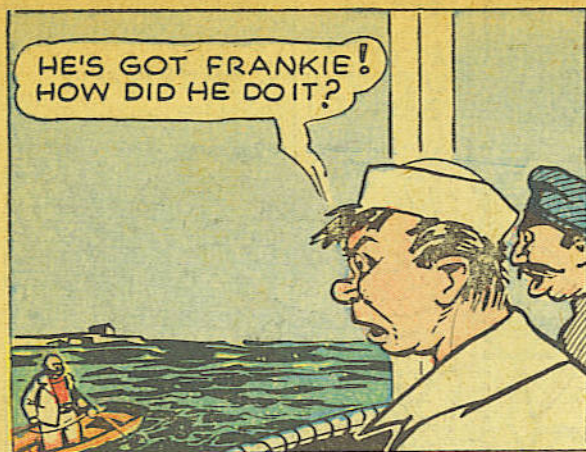
SEARCH HIS CABIN-BREAK INTO THE STRONG-BOX-FIND THAT MONEY!

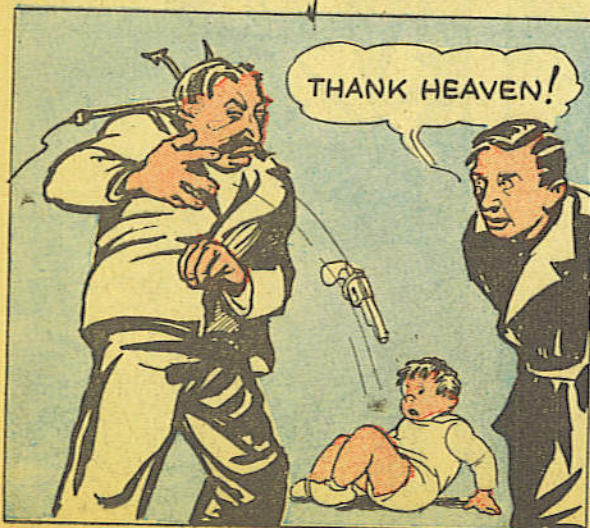
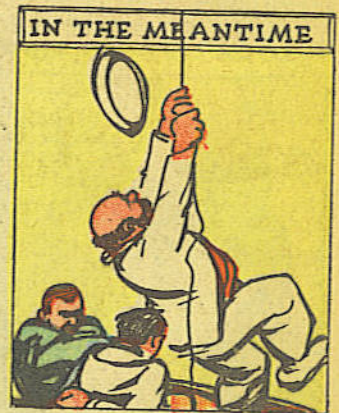
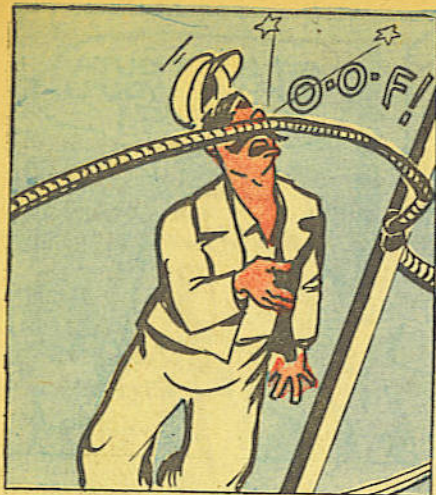
HOW ABOUT THE KID-BOSS?

SNAP INTO IT! THAT OLD GUY IS STILL HANGING AROUND--

TWO AN' TWO MAKE FOUR- HERE'S WHERE I COLLECT FOR THE LUMP ON MY HEAD!

WELL-MR. BUTLER-KIDNAPPER! IF THAT GRAPPLE-HOOK HADN'T CAUGHT YOU IN THE THROAT YOU MIGHT'VE LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO TELL ME WHAT YOU DONE TO THE KID!





The **TEEN AGE** PY

JOE E BURESCH

CAN I DRIVE
WITH ONE
HAND? OBOY!
I SURE CAN!!

THEN PICK
UP MY LIPSTICK
I DROPPED IT
ON YOUR SIDE

THE MAN
I MARRY MUST
BE TALL
VERY TALL!!

AW GIMME
A CHANCE
--EVERY
ONCE IN
A WHILE
I GET
GROWIN'
PAINS!!

HOW ABOUT
A DATE
SUNDAY
NIGHT?

MAKE IT
MONDAY
NIGHT.
SUNDAY
I HAVE
A DATE WITH
MY STEADY

I WAS DREAMING
LAST NIGHT
OF THE GIRL OF
MY DREAMS!! SHE
WAS BEAUTIFUL!! AND
SHE LOVED ME!! AND
SHE DIDN'T LIKE
TO SPEND MY
MONEY!! AND
SHE COULD COOK!!!

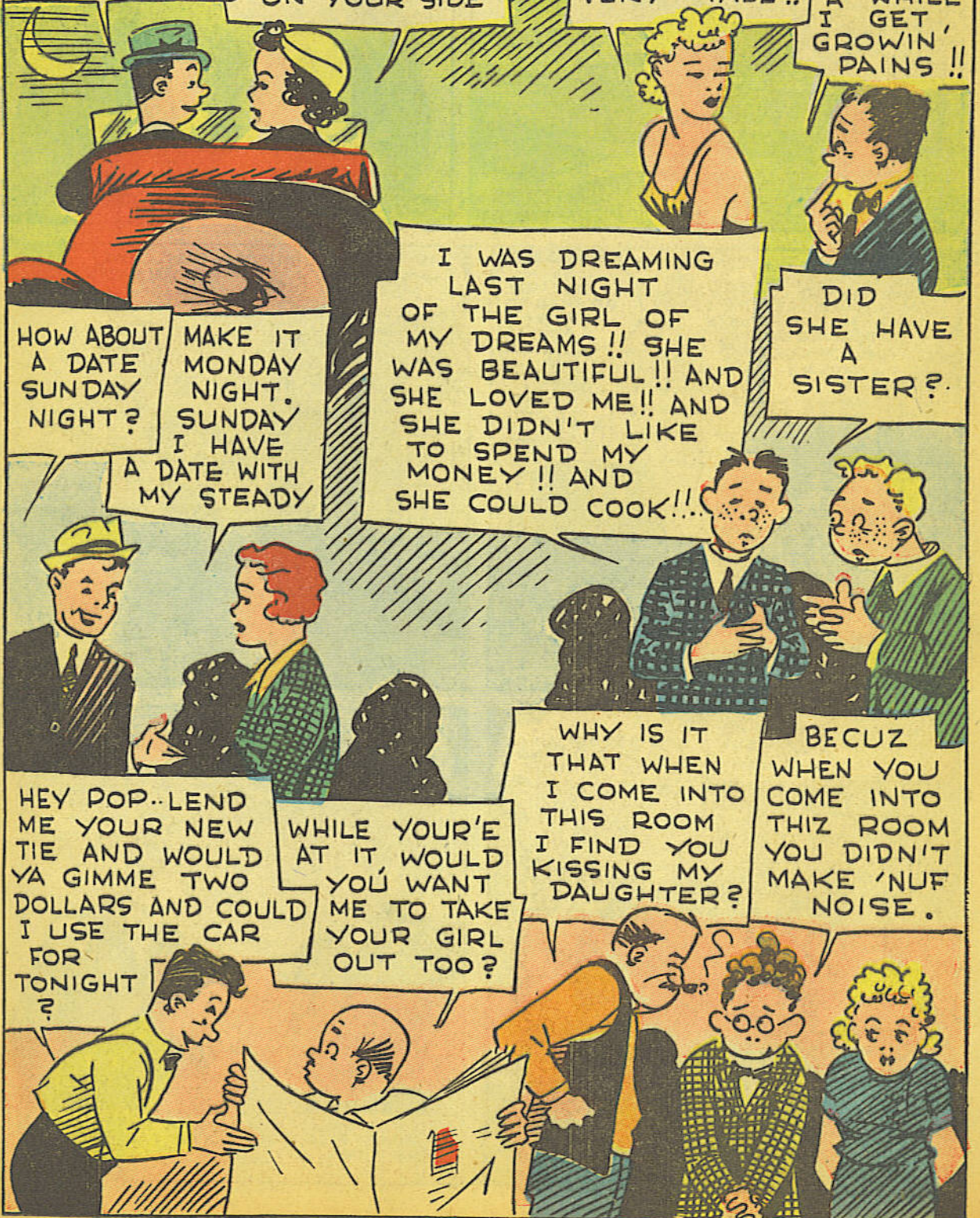
DID
SHE HAVE
A
SISTER?

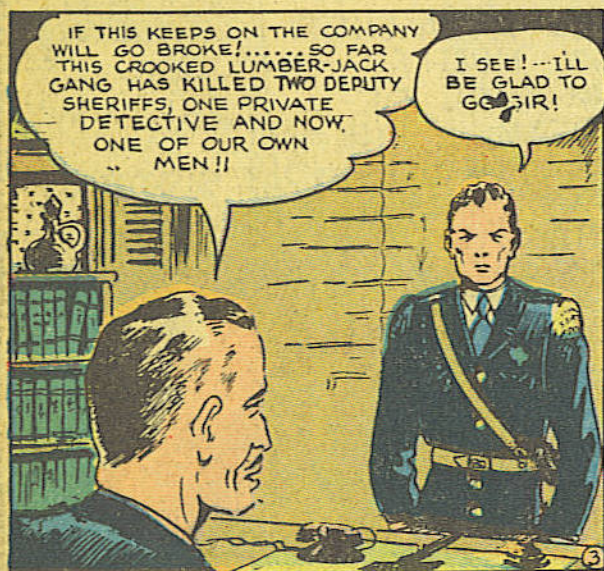
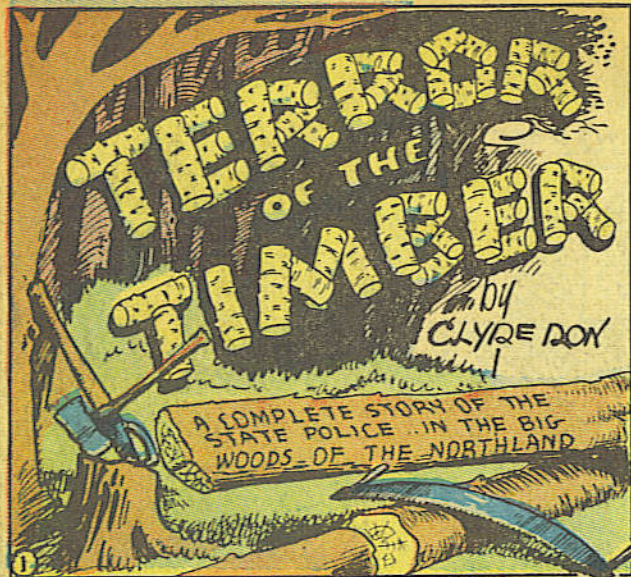
HEY POP..LEND
ME YOUR NEW
TIE AND WOULD
YA GIMME TWO
DOLLARS AND COULD
I USE THE CAR
FOR
TONIGHT
?

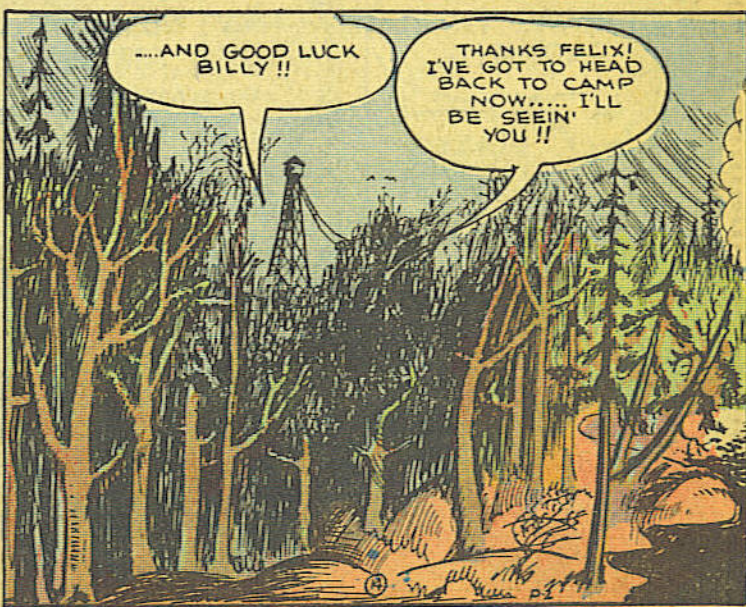
WHILE YOUR'E
AT IT, WOULD
YOU WANT
ME TO TAKE
YOUR GIRL
OUT TOO?

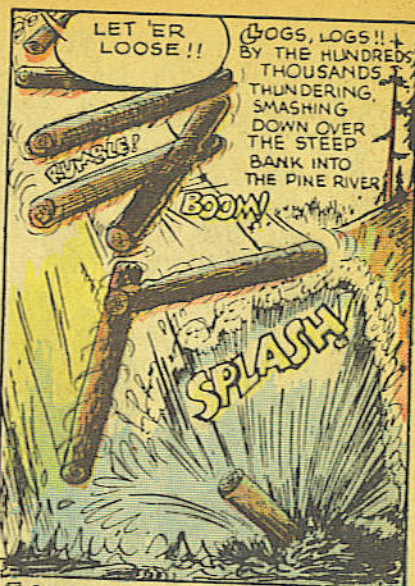
WHY IS IT
THAT WHEN
I COME INTO
THIS ROOM
I FIND YOU
KISSING MY
DAUGHTER?

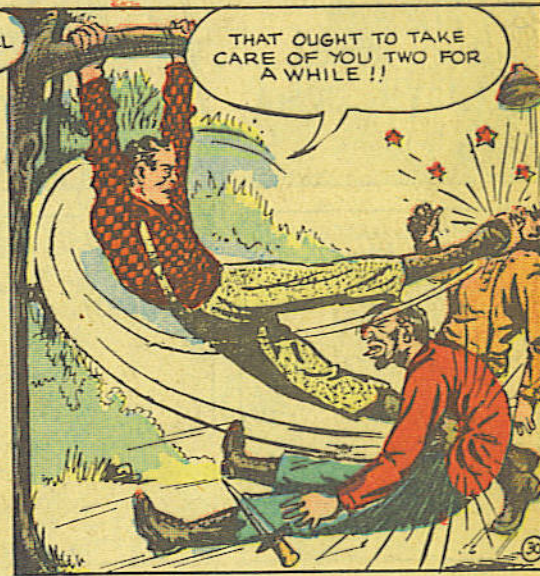
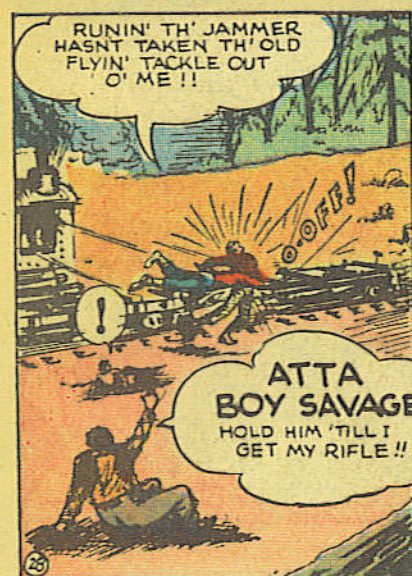
BECAUZ
WHEN YOU
COME INTO
THIZ ROOM
YOU DIDN'T
MAKE 'NUF
NOISE.

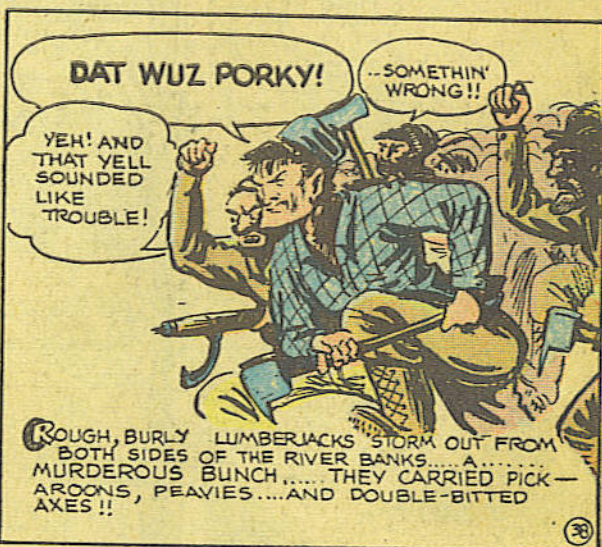
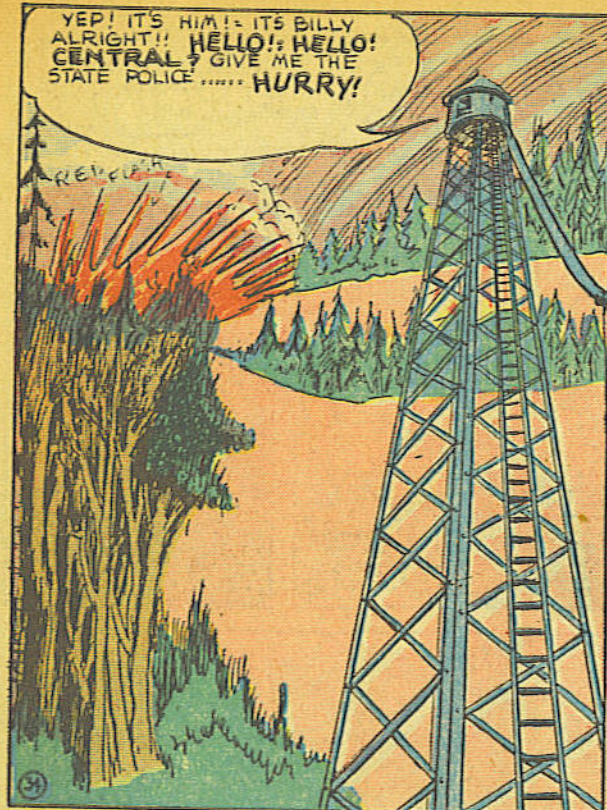


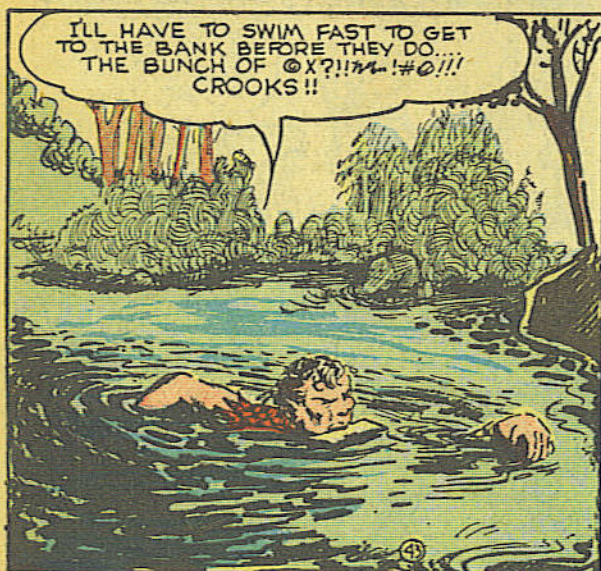


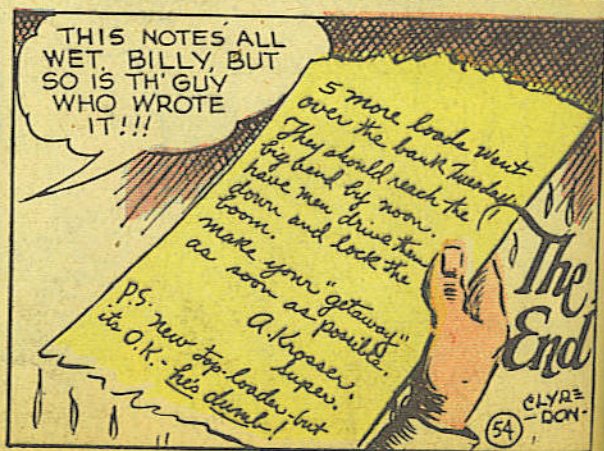
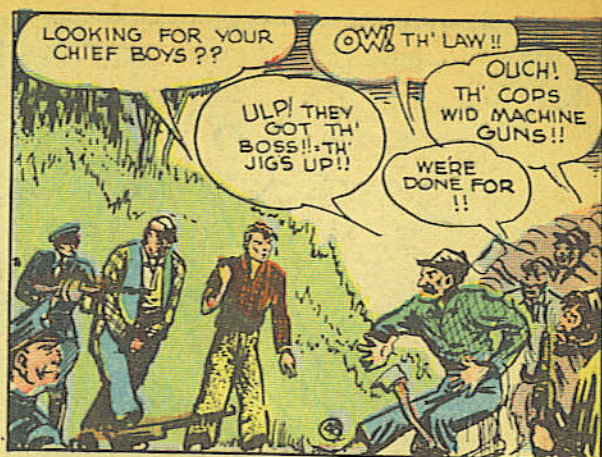












GAG WAY!

by
JOE E
BURESCH

I LOOST A
PENNY HERE
SO IT'S MINE
IF YE FIND
IT.

OK--BUT IF
YOU RUN
ACROSS THE
POST-OFFICE
ANYWHERE,
LEMME KNOW
MY CAR'S PARKED
THERE

WE'RE NOT
GOING TO
THE DANCE?
WHY NOT?

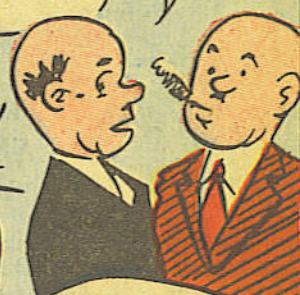
'CUZ
IT'S
SNOW-
ING.
AN' TH'
SNOW DON'T
MATCH MY
GOWN



YOU WANT A DATE
WITH ME? SAY!
DON'T YOU
KNOW ANY
BETTER?

SURE!
BUT THEY
WON'T GIVE
ME DATES

SOME MANS BUSINESS
WENT ON THE
ROCKS!



THAT SONG
I JUST SANG
HAUNTS ME!

THEY
ALL
SHOULD.
YOU
KILL 'EM!

WOT WUZ
YA THINKIN'
OF, WHILE
I WUZ
KISSING
YOU?

ED
AN'
BILL



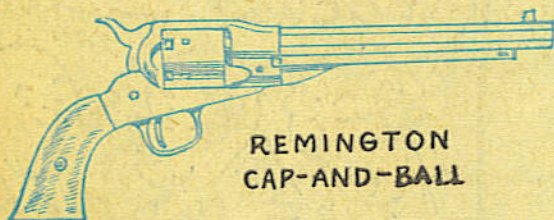
WEAPONS *of the* WEST

Conducted by **W.M. Allison**

THE wide-spread and ever growing interest in the history of the old West has developed a genuine curiosity regarding the weapons used by the famous (and sometimes notorious) fighting men who made that history.

Unfortunately, there is a great deal of controversy regarding the personal choice of "shooting irons" preferred by many of these old-time fighters. This is especially true in the case of James B. ("Wild Bill") Hickok, perhaps the most famous of them all.

We know, of course, that during most of his career Wild Bill used cap-and-ball Colt and Remington six-shooters. We know this simply because they were the only hand-guns available at the time he was making a name for himself in the lawless days of our early frontier.



REMINGTON
CAP-AND-BALL

But it has been said by some writers, who claim to know, that Wild Bill was among the first to adopt and use the first Colt made for metallic cartridges—the "Single Action Army" revolver, variously nick-named "Frontier," "Peacemaker" and "Hog-leg."



THE "PEACEMAKER"
COLT SINGLE ACTION
ARMY REVOLVER

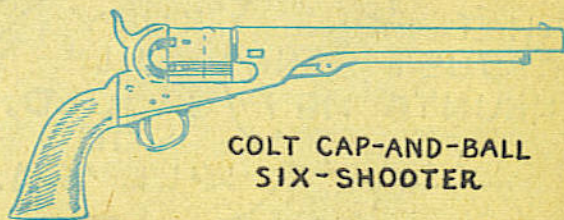
Others, however, insist that Hickok always preferred, and clung tenaciously to, the old cap-and-ball guns. This sounds reasonable because the Single Action Army Colt did not appear on the frontier until three or four years before his death.

Men whose lives depend on their weapons and their ability to use them skillfully are usually cautious about discarding those with which they are familiar until newer one are tried and have been proven. I have seen two revolvers supposed to have belonged to Wild Bill—twin cap-and-ball Colts, calibre .36 with ivory grips.

There is a story to the effect that in one gun-duel with a man named Dave Tutt, Hickok used a .32 Smith & Wesson. This is possible, as there was such a gun at the time Wild Bill was "doing his stuff."

But while the little S. & W. made a good "hide-out" gun, a man used to handling the big six-shooters would scarcely have had much real confidence in it as a serious weapon. Remember, in those hectic days our frontier towns were wild and rough, and a man's gun was the answer to the question of "life or death."

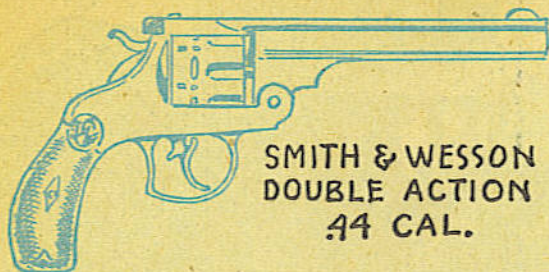
The Single Action Army Colt was adopted by the U. S. Army in 1873, and soon became the most popular hand-gun in the West. One reason for this was the fact that it followed so closely the lines of the cap-and-ball guns. It was not as heavy as some of the older type, but it had practically the same grip and a big hammer to hook the thumb over and cock by closing the hand.



COLT CAP-AND-BALL
SIX-SHOOTER

The Smith & Wesson was the first cartridge revolver. The earlier models were also single action—that is, the hammer was cocked for each shot—but they had low, broad hammers designed to be cocked by the end of the thumb. With their tip-up frames, they were much faster to re-load than the Colt, but, while big and rugged were not quite as well adapted for the rigors of frontier use. Black powder soot cakes up a gun very quickly. That was where the S. A. Colt had an

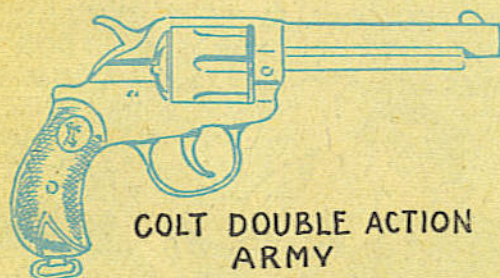
advantage. The cylinder has three turning surfaces which, with the powerful leverage of that big hammer, will keep the gun working in spite of enough dust, rust and soot to jamb up any other.



**SMITH & WESSON
DOUBLE ACTION
.44 CAL.**

I do not, however, mean to imply that the old Smith & Wessons were not good frontier weapons. They were, and, in point of workmanship and accuracy, never surpassed except by later models of the same make. Though seldom mentioned in Western fiction, the S. & W.'s were in use all over the West.

Both Colt and Smith & Wesson soon followed their single action six-shooters with double actions, but for a good many years they were not as popular as the single actions.



**COLT DOUBLE ACTION
ARMY**

While most of the well known gun-fighters preferred the single action, there were many exceptions, one of these being the notorious Billy, the Kid. He used a "self-cocker" at least part of the time, and it is positively established that The Kid was carrying one—a .41—on the night that Pat Garrett, then sheriff of Lincoln County, New Mexico, ended the wild career of this much-discussed outlaw.

The famous California outlaws, Chris Evans and John Sontag, are said to have been partial to the double action Smith & Wesson .44.

It is my present belief that this same double action S. & W. was really the best weapon of the period for the *average* man. The single action Colt was a "gun-man's" gun—fast work requiring much practice plus a good deal of natural dexterity. Many of the old-timers altered the gun by eliminating the trigger, firing by letting the hammer slip from under the thumb. This has been called "thumb-fanning." Others held the gun in one hand and "fanned" the hammer with the palm of the other hand. This trick, or knack, has been widely discussed for many years among fans who argue that no shooter could control his fire, or aim, when shooting in this fashion.

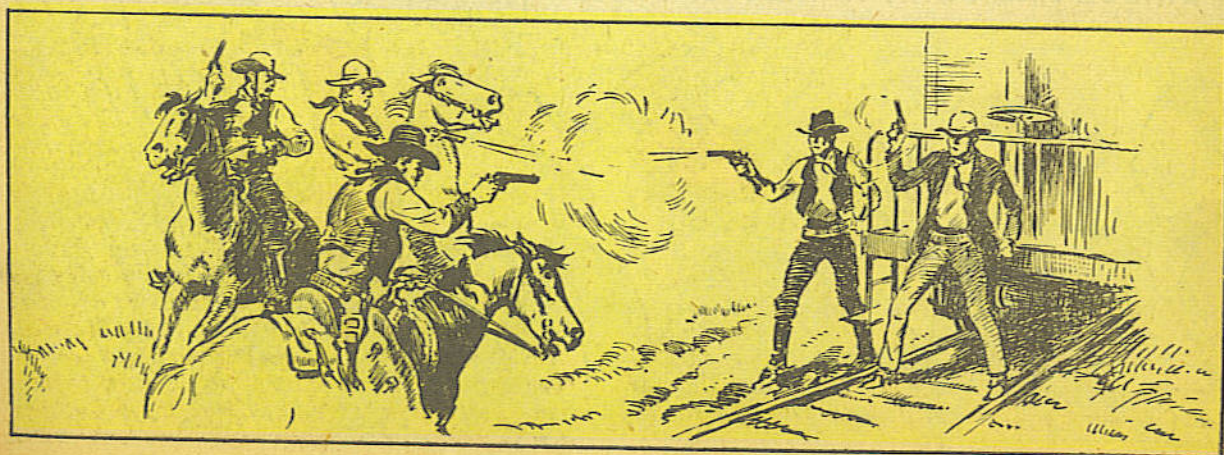


**SMITH & WESSON
"AMERICAN" MODEL
.44 CAL.**

Obviously, these tricks were acquired only by much practice and the man who had not mastered them had no chance to match the speed of the fellow who had—unless he carried a double action. I am referring, of course, to the short range gun-fight, where accuracy is hardly a consideration. And a quick draw is another matter of practice. But just the same the *average* man would have a better chance with the "self-cocker."

In the early model double actions the S. & W. had the advantage of a lighter hammer and a shorter and faster trigger pull. The old double action Colts had a big heavy hammer with a long backward sweep and a long, heavy trigger pull.

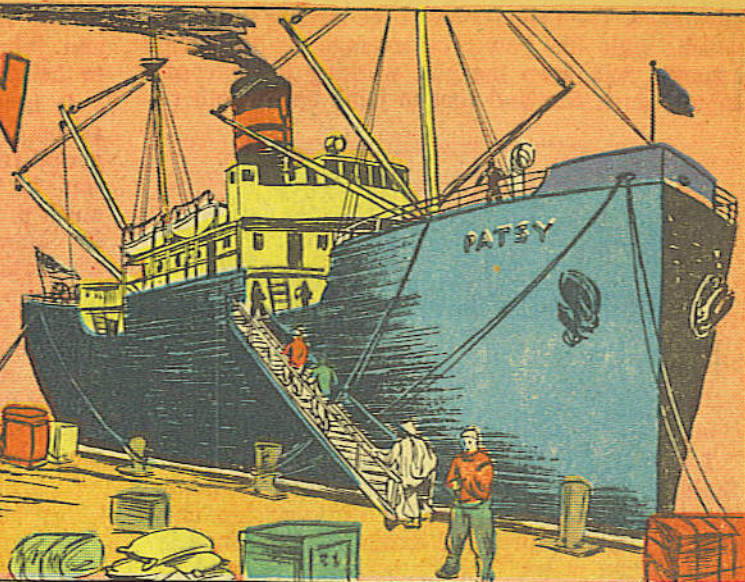
Modern revolvers, both Colt and Smith & Wesson, have light hammers with a short backward sweep and smooth actions. They are the fastest guns in the world to get into action—*bar-ring none*.



CAPTAIN JIM

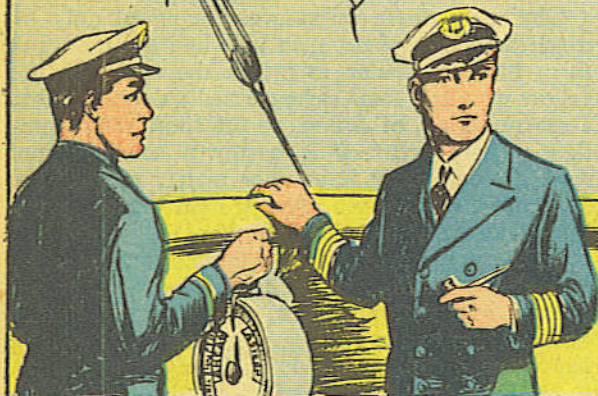
AND THE CHINESE PIRATES

BY
R.A. BURLEY
A COMPLETE STORY



ALL CLEAR
FORE AND
AFT, SIR

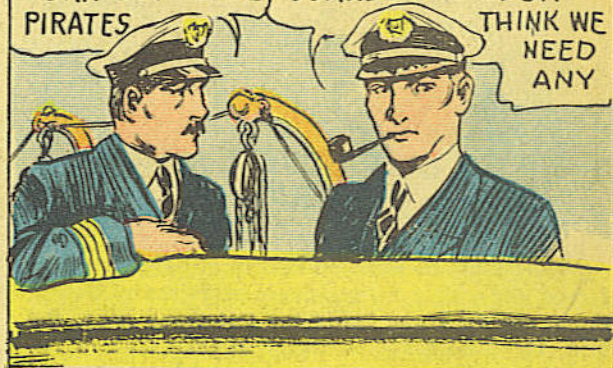
THEN LET'S GET
THE OLD TUB OUT
TO SEA. GIVE HER
HALF SPEED ASTERN



THOSE CHINESE
PASSENGERS
LOOK PRETTY
TOUGH, CAP'N.
I HOPE THEY DON'T
TURN OUT TO BE
PIRATES

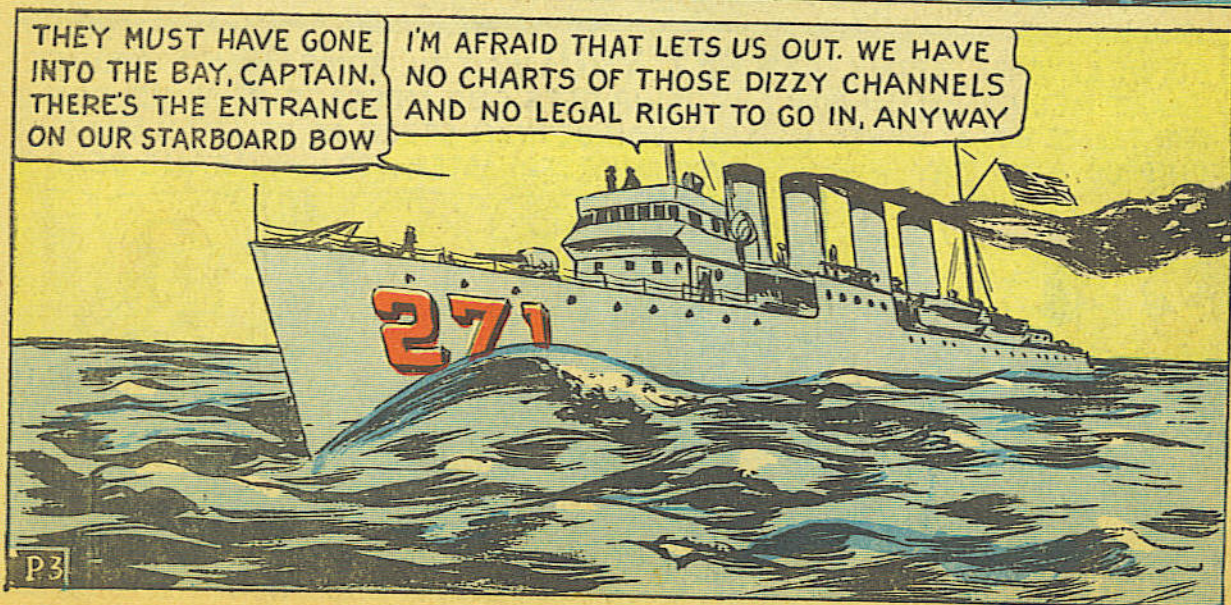
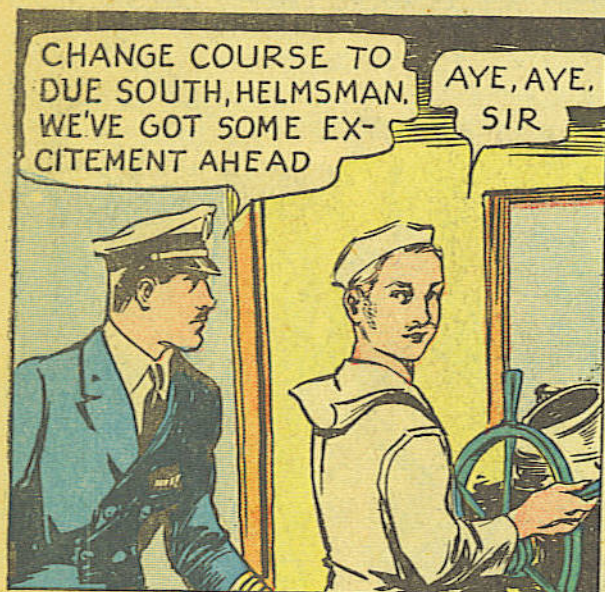
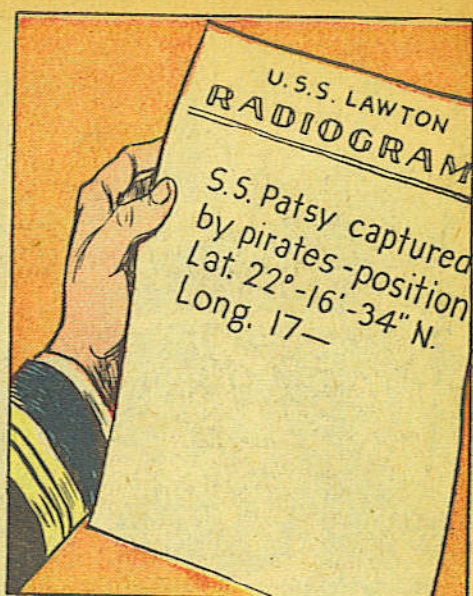
THEY'RE PROBABLY HARM-
LESS COOLIES BUT WE'D
BETTER WATCH 'EM. SOME
OF THESE CHINA COAST
SHIPS CARRY ARMED
GUARDS BUT I DON'T

THINK WE
NEED
ANY

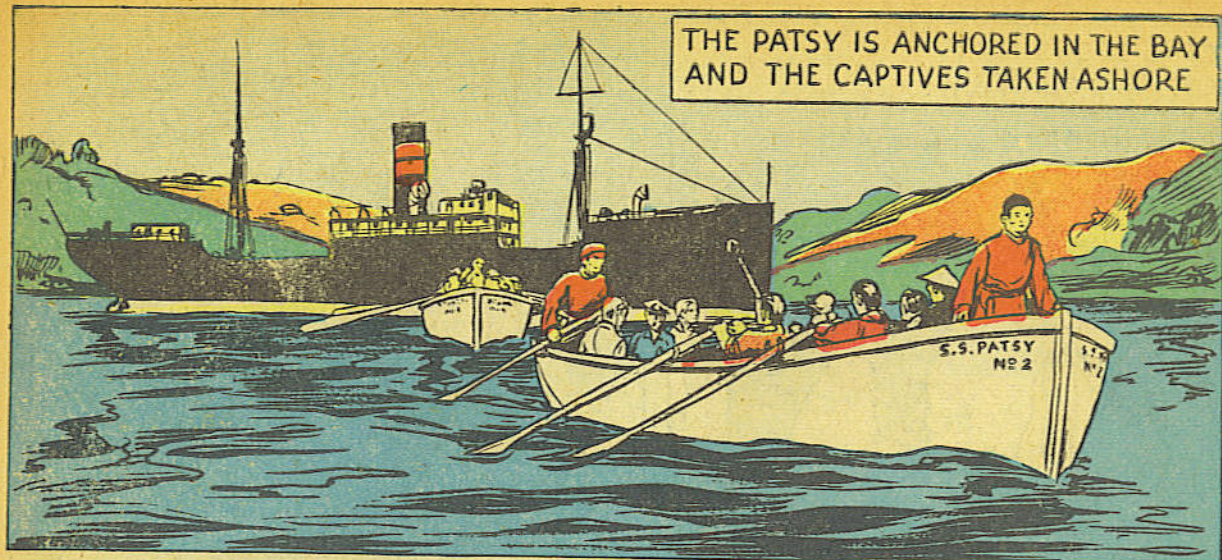


EARLY ON THE SECOND MORNING AT SEA
THE COOLIE PASSENGERS IN THE BOW
SWARMED UP THE LADDERS TO THE
BRIDGE AND DOWN TO THE ENGINE ROOM





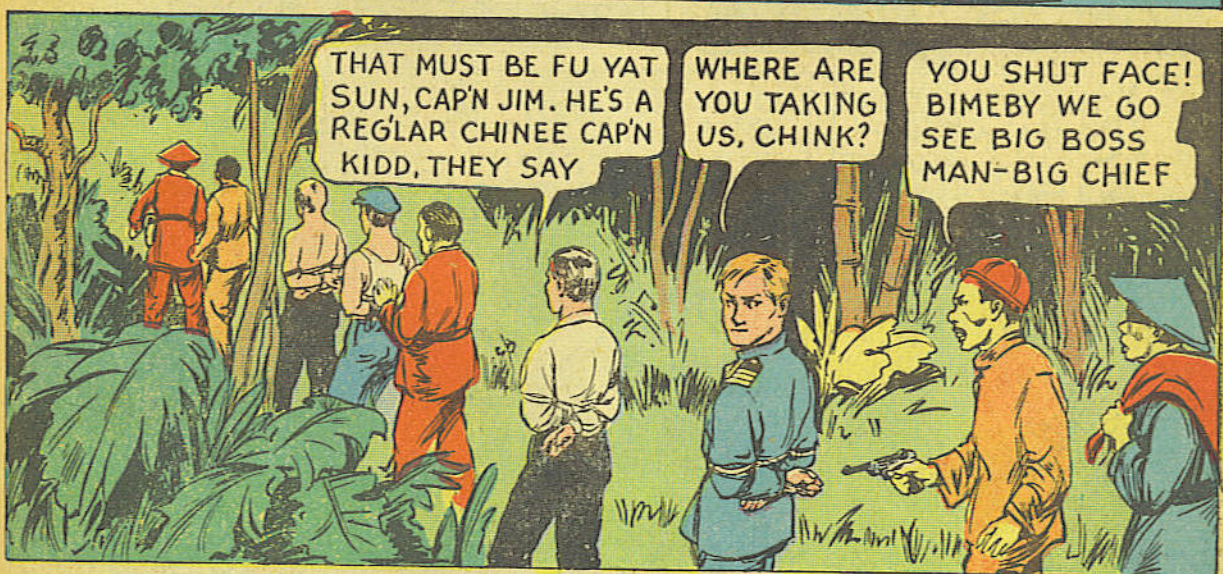
THE PATSY IS ANCHORED IN THE BAY
AND THE CAPTIVES TAKEN ASHORE



THAT MUST BE FU YAT
SUN, CAP'N JIM. HE'S A
REG'LAR CHINEE CAP'N
KIDD, THEY SAY

WHERE ARE
YOU TAKING
US, CHINK?

YOU SHUT FACE!
BIMEBY WE GO
SEE BIG BOSS
MAN-BIG CHIEF



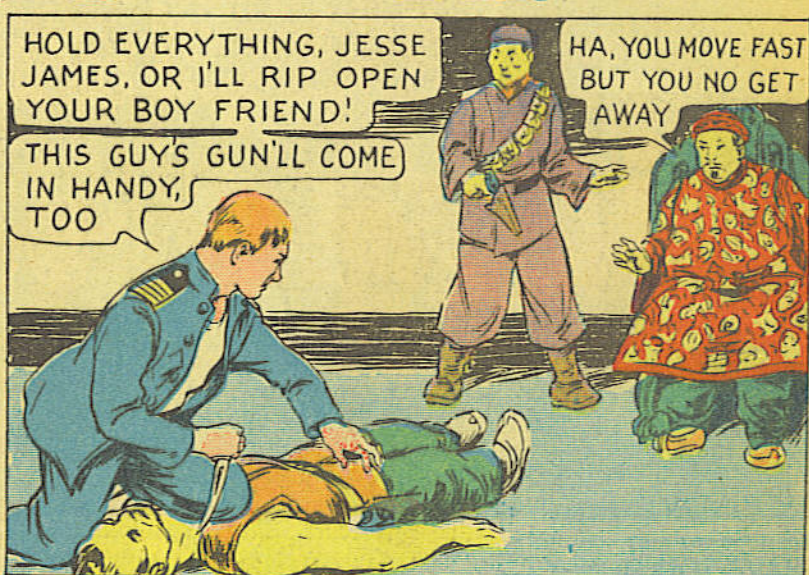
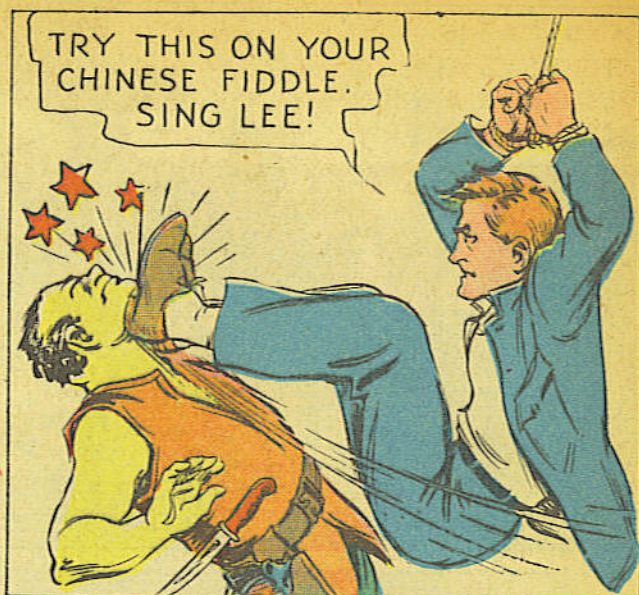
HAVE YOU MONEY
HIDDEN ON SHIP
OR FRIENDS TO
PAY RANSOM?

NO! YOU GREASY
PIG, AND I WOULDN'T
TELL IF I HAD!

UNG FOY YEE!
HEH! HEH!

TOUGH GUY, EH?
WE MAKE YOU TALK.
SING LEE! SIANG
FUNG LOW LAI





AND THIS IS THE SHACK WHERE
THE BOYS ARE LOCKED UP.
HMM, NOT A VERY SNAPPY
LOOKIN' SENTRY. MAYBE I—



STICK 'EM HIGH,
YELLOW BOY!

WHASSA
MALLA?



SNAP OUT OF IT, BOYS.
WE'VE GOT COMPANY. I'LL
CUT YOU LOOSE AND
YOU CAN TIE UP THIS APE

GOSH, FELLERS,
IT'S THE
SKIPPER!



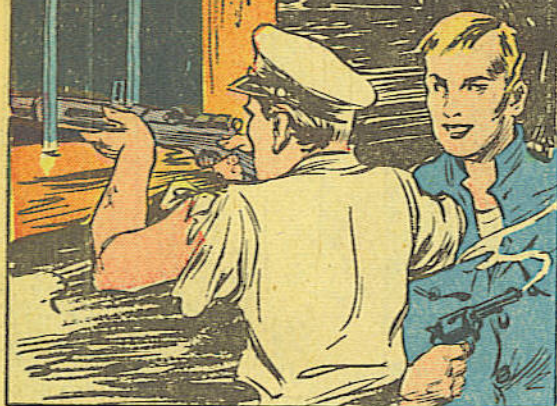
OH, OH, TOO LATE TO BEAT
IT NOW. THEY'VE SEEN US

OW! THAT WAS KINDA
CLOSE TO MY EAR! BUT
WE GOT THIS RIFLE AND
YOUR GAT, ANYHOW

SURE, WE CAN GIVE 'EM
A SCRAP, CAP'N JIM.
THIS BELT IS FULL
OF AMMUNITION



ATTA BOY, BOSUN! I SEE YOU
DIDN'T SERVE A HITCH IN THE
NAVY FOR NOTHING



I GUESS IT WON'T
BE LONG NOW, BOYS.
WE'RE ALL OUT OF
AMMUNITION



THEY GOTTA GET
IN HERE FIRST.
HERE'S A CLUB I
CAN BEND OVER
A FEW DOMES

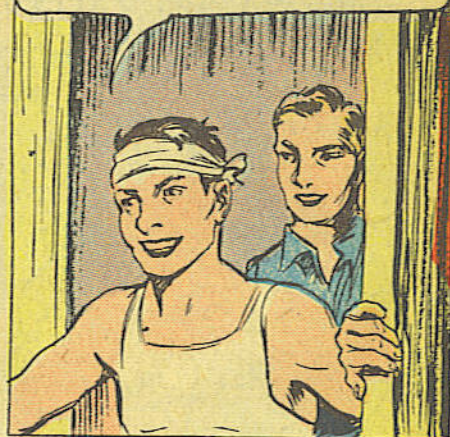


COME ON, MEN. THEY'RE
ON THE RUN NOW!



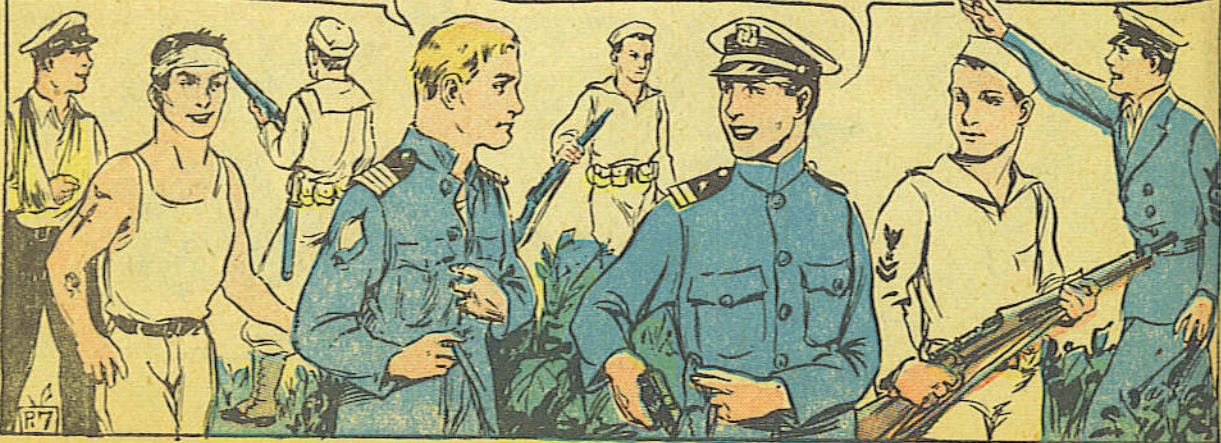
OYEE!
MELICAN
NAVY!

HOT DAWG! THE GOBS HAVE
LANDED AND THE WAR'S
ALL OVER. C'MON OUT!



GEE, LIEUTENANT, YOU GOT
HERE JUST IN TIME! WE'D
HAVE BEEN CHOP SUEY
IN ANOTHER MINUTE

YES. OUR SKIPPER DECIDED TO COME IN AF-
TER YOU IN SPITE OF RED TAPE. ANYWAY,
I DON'T THINK THESE CHINKS WILL PICK
ON ANOTHER AMERICAN SHIP IN A HURRY

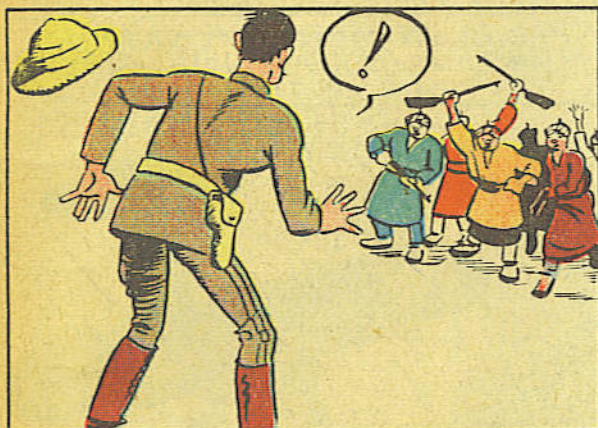


ROCKY

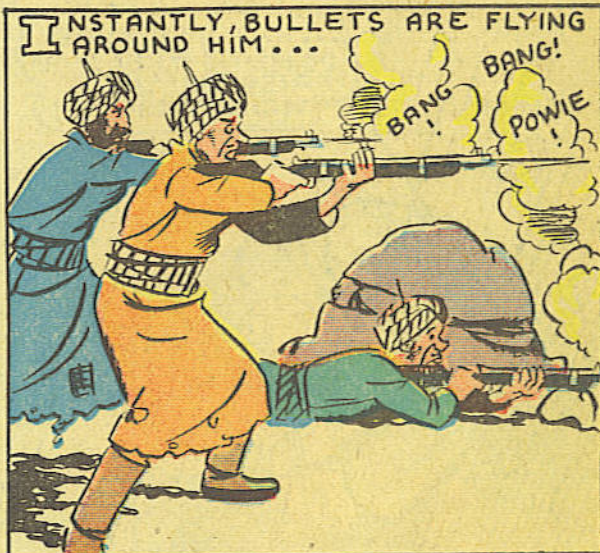
Baird

by PAUL J. LAURETTA-

IN THE HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS, NORTHERN FRONTIER OF BRITISH INDIA, A LONE FIGURE MAKES ITS WAY SOUTHWARD THROUGH A NARROW PASS.

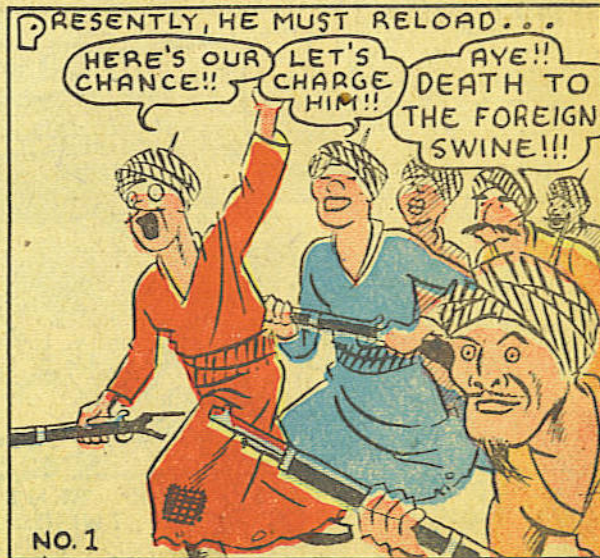
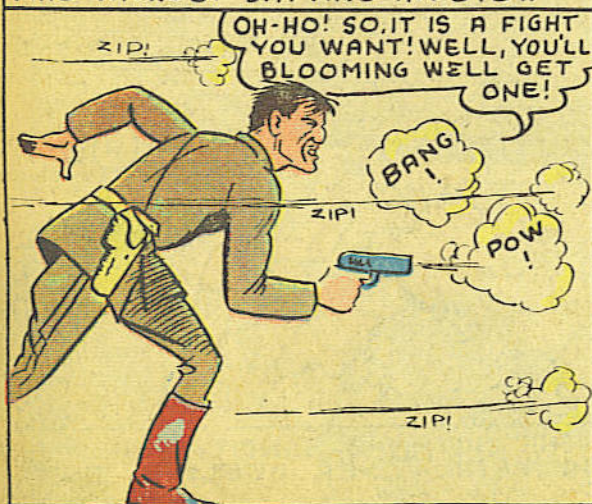


NOW, THESE MOUNTAINS ARE SOMETIMES OVER-RUN WITH BLOOD-THIRSTY BANDITS, SO, IT IS NOT UNUSUAL WHEN THIS LONE TRAVELER HAPPENS UPON A DOZEN OF THEM!



INSTANTLY, BULLETS ARE FLYING AROUND HIM...

...BUT THE SOLDIER RETURNS THE FIRE WITHOUT BATTLING AN EYE!!



PRESENTLY, HE MUST RELOAD...

UNKNOWN TO BOTH THE BANDITS AND THE SOLDIER, THE SKIRMISH HAS BEEN WATCHED WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST...

NOW HERE'S WHERE I STEP IN...

... AND GIVE THOSE DEMONS THE SURPRISE OF THEIR VICIOUS LIVES!!

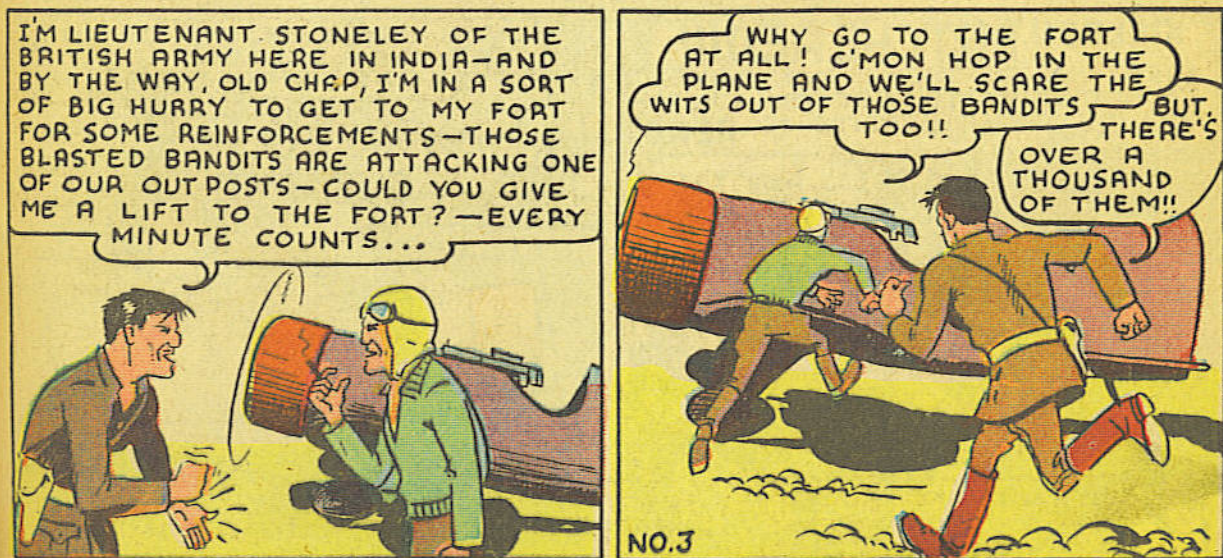
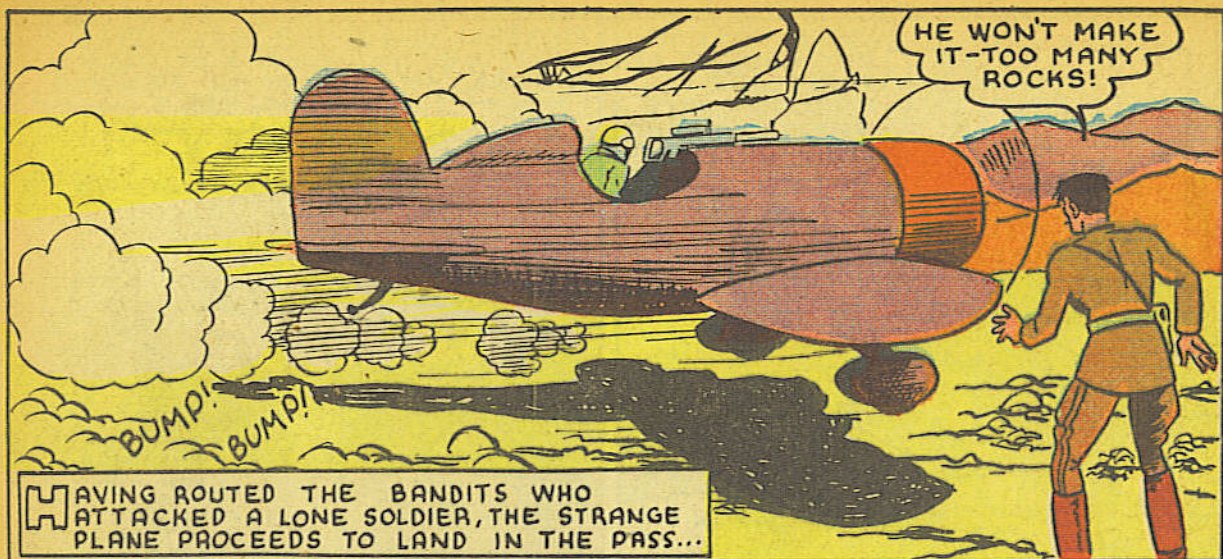
THE PILOT OPENS FIRE WITH HIS MACHINE-GUN-CONFUSION TEARS THE RANKS OF THE BANDITS ASUNDER!

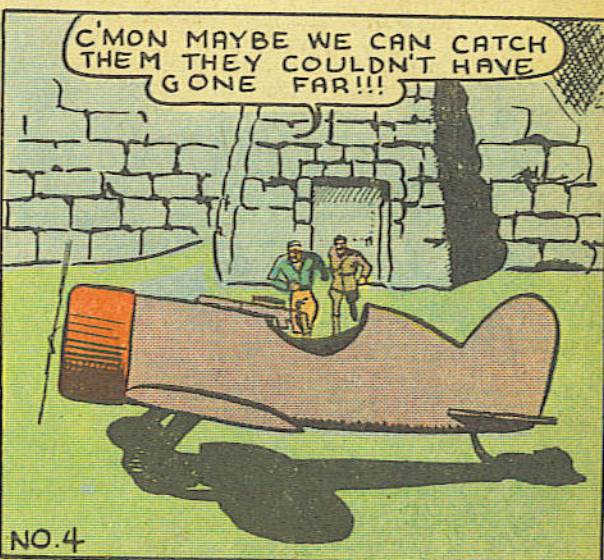
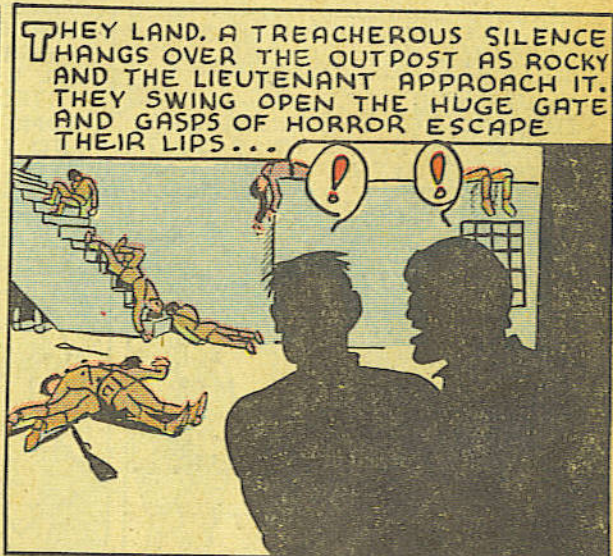
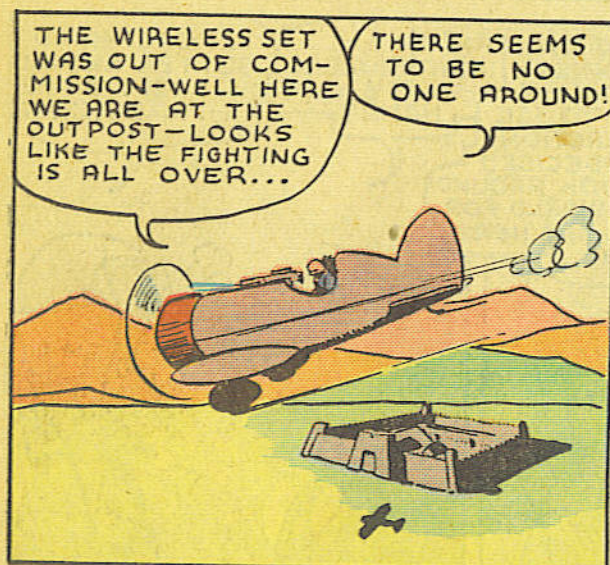
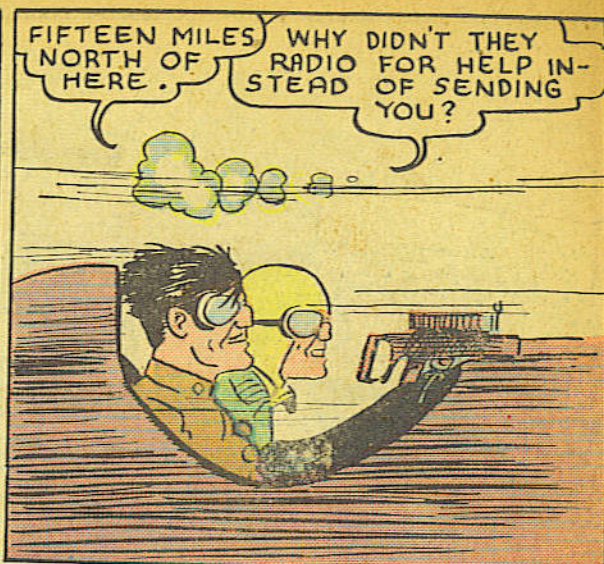
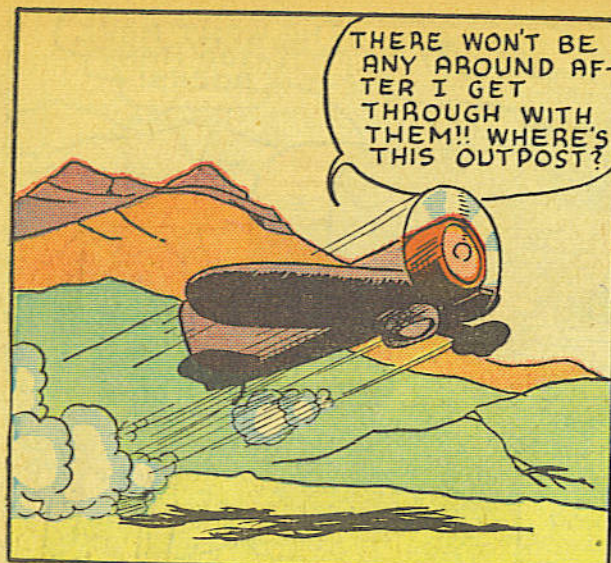
RAT-TA-TAT!!

OH! OH!

ZOOM!

BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAMS RENT THE AIR. THE BANDITS ARE THROWN INTO A PANIC, TUMBLING HEADS OVER HEELS IN A HOPELESS ROUT!!!





.....AND NOW, AS THEY EMERGE
FROM THE OUTPOST.....

HURRY!! NOT ONE
OF THOSE DOGS
MUST LIVE!!

WHEN ROCKY AND THE LIEUTENANT LANDED
AT THE OUTPOST LITTLE DID THEY RE-
ALIZE THAT THE SHARP-EYED REAR-
GUARD OF THE RETREATING BANDITS HAD
SEEN THEM.....

YEOW!!

WOW!! HERE
THEY COME!

QUICK!! CLIMB
IN THE PLANE!!

ZIP!

BANG!

ZIP!

PING!

EMITTING HIDEOUS HOWLS, THE BANDITS
LEAP FORTH FOR THE KILL!!

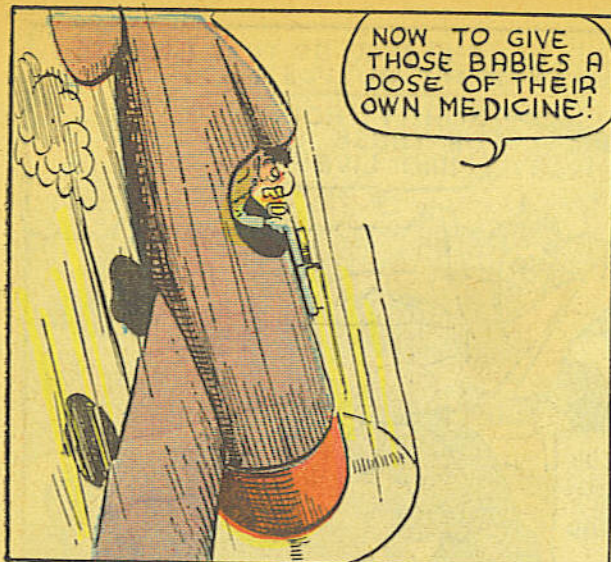
HALT!!

STOP!

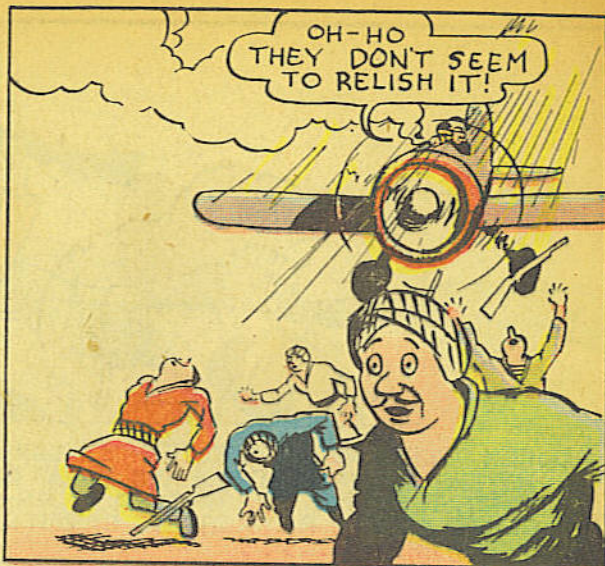
POW

BANG!

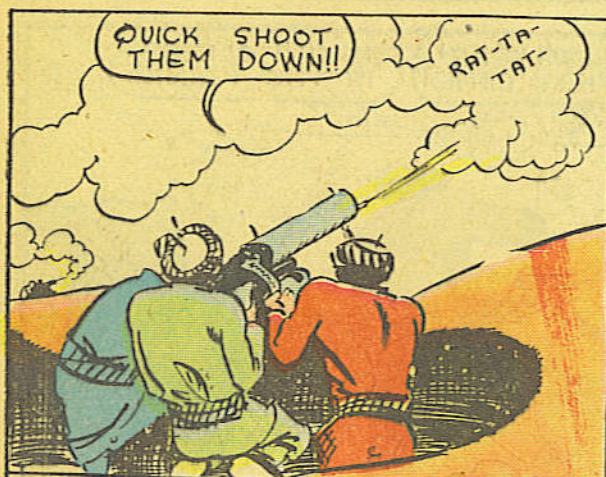
*THUD!



NOW TO GIVE
THOSE BABIES A
DOSE OF THEIR
OWN MEDICINE!

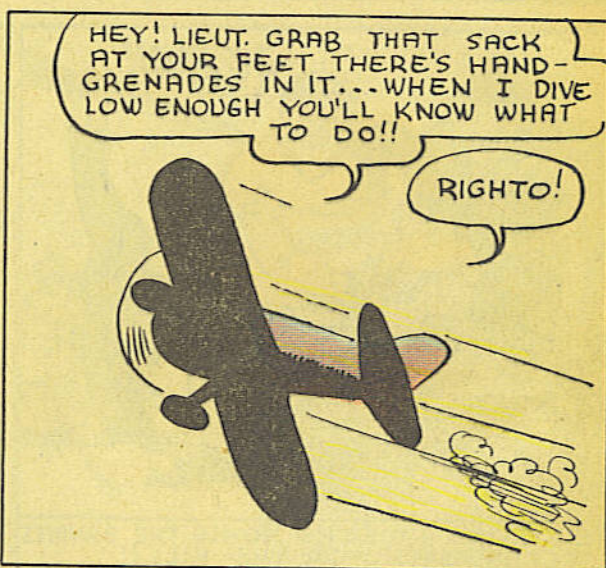


OH-HO
THEY DON'T SEEM
TO RELISH IT!



QUICK SHOOT
THEM DOWN!!

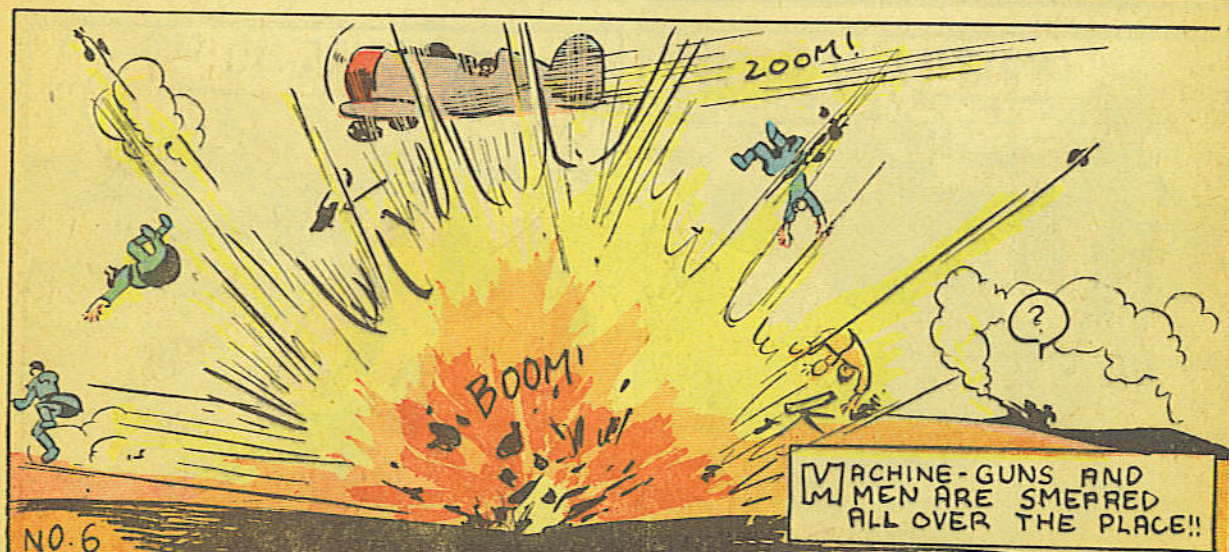
RAT-TR-
TAT-



HEY! LIEUT. GRAB THAT SACK
AT YOUR FEET THERE'S HAND-
GRENADES IN IT...WHEN I DIVE
LOW ENOUGH YOU'LL KNOW WHAT
TO DO!!

RIGHTO!

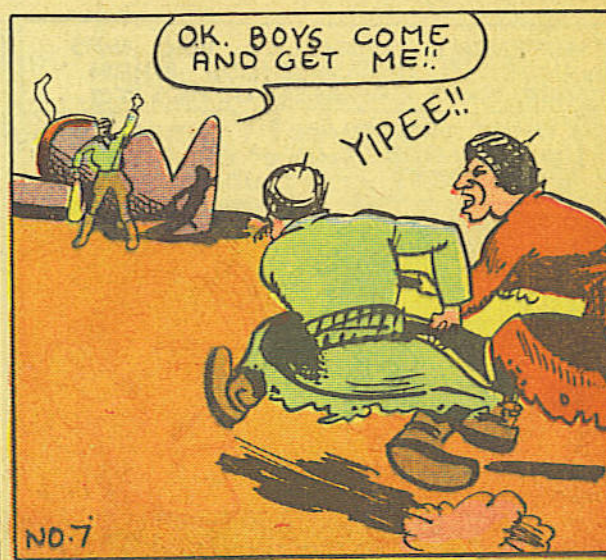
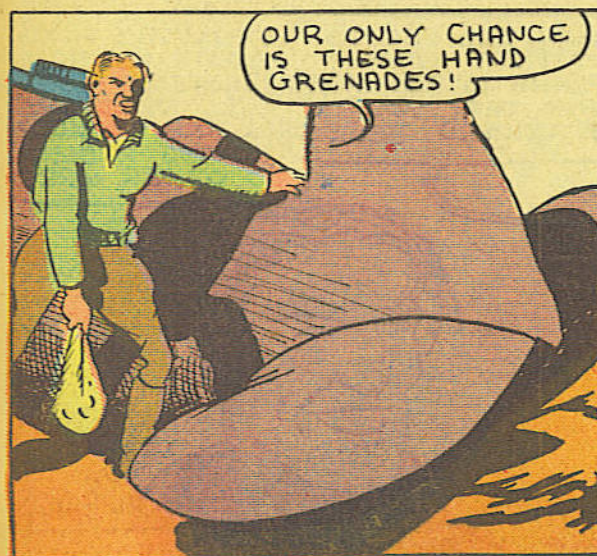
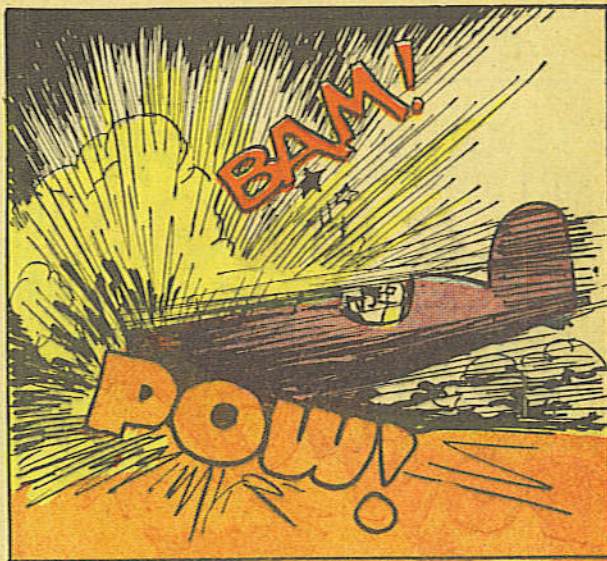
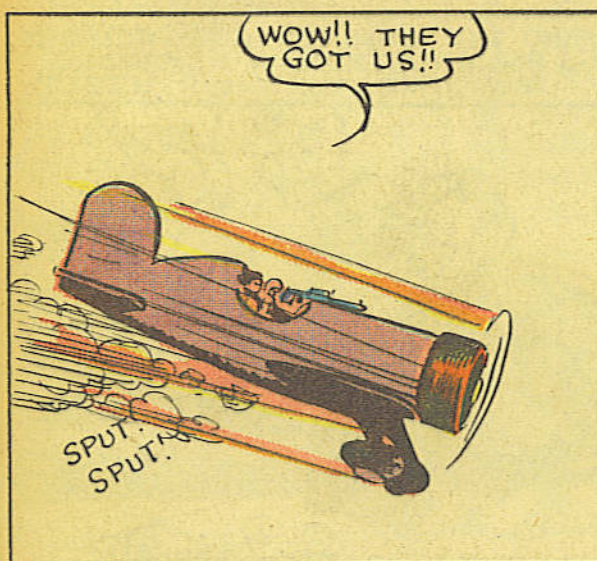
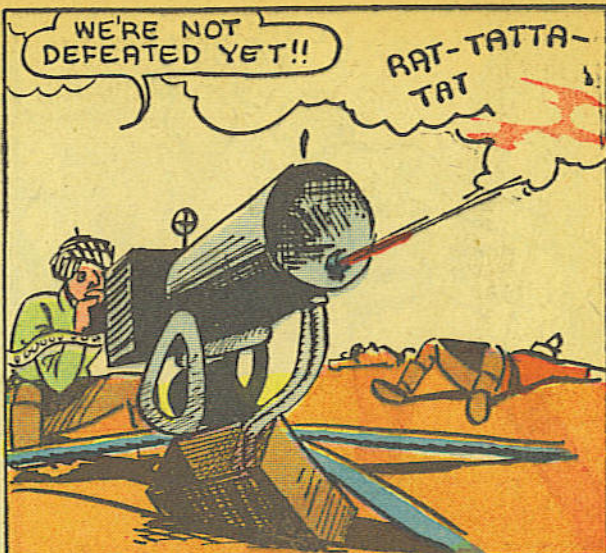
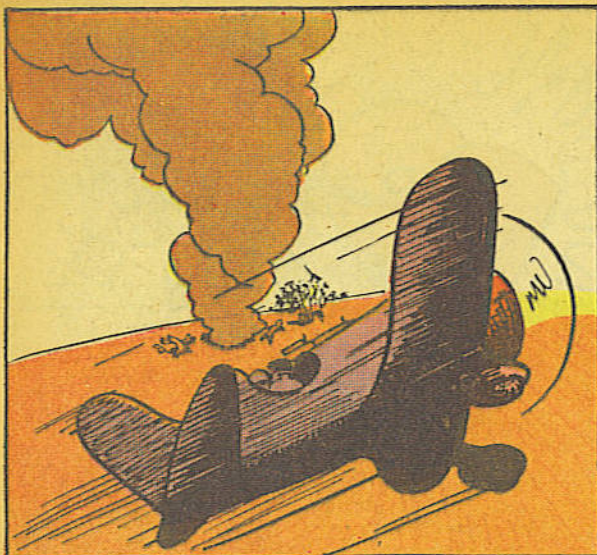
BUT THE BANDITS HAVE CAPTURED
SEVERAL MACHINE-GUNS FROM
THE OUTPOST.....

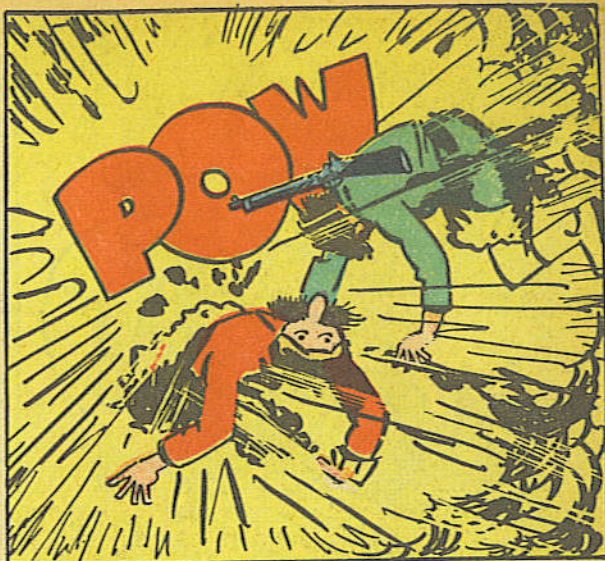
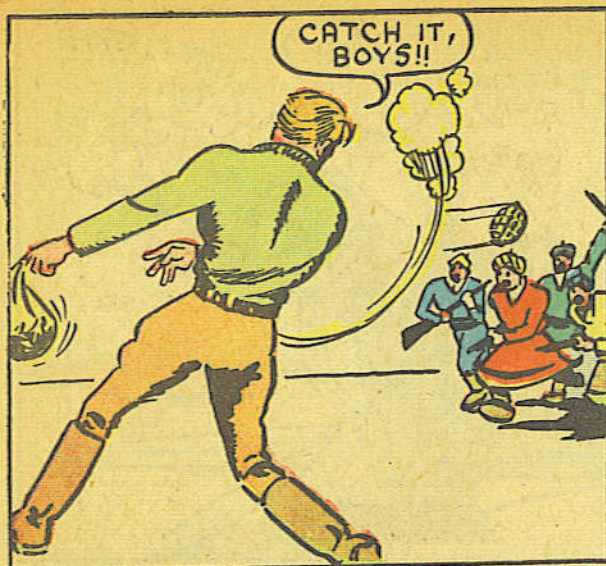


BOOM!

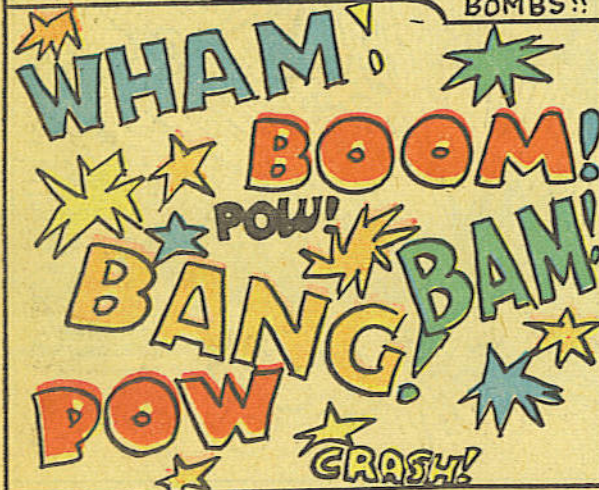
ZOOM!

MACHINE-GUNS AND
MEN ARE SMEARED
ALL OVER THE PLACE!!

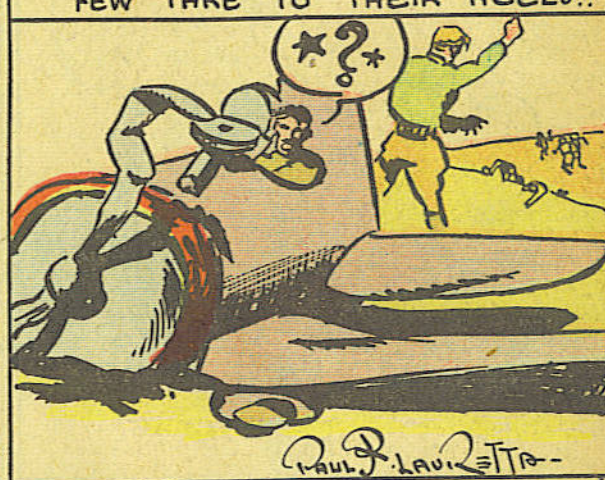




BUT STILL THEY KEEP ON COMING. ROCKY HURLS THE REMAINING BOMBS!!



AND THE BANDITS ARE ALL BUT ANNIHILATED!!! A REMAINING FEW TAKE TO THEIR HEELS!!



LIUTENANT STONELEY, WHO WAS KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS WHEN THE SHIP CRASHED, COMES TO....



MAN, I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOUR PLANE IS REPLACED IN ITSELF - BUT AND THAT YOU GET A REWARD BESIDES!

SHUX! THIS FIGHT WAS A REWARD IN ITSELF - BUT I'LL NEED THE PLANE TO KEEP MOVING AROUND TO OTHER WARS!



The Spinner
FEATURING
**THE CASE
OF THE
BROKEN SKULL**
BY
Bert Christman

LOOK, SPINNER!
WE FOUND A
HORSE'S SKULL

WE'RE GOING TO
USE IT IN OUR
CAVE — MAKE
IT SPOOKY!

I HATE SKULLS
AND BONES —
MAKE ME THINK
OF DEAD
PEOPLE!

SO YOU HATE SKULLS — HEH, SUE?
WELL — I REMEMBER ONE,
A HUMAN SKULL, THAT SAVED
ONE LIFE AND TOOK ANOTHER
AND UNCOVERED ONE OF
THE RICHEST
GOLD MINES
IN THE
WEST

IT ALL STARTED
WHEN BRUCE BERRY,
A YOUNG HIGHWAY
ENGINEER, DROPPED
INTO THE CHAMBERS'
MOUNTAIN HOME TO
USE THEIR PHONE

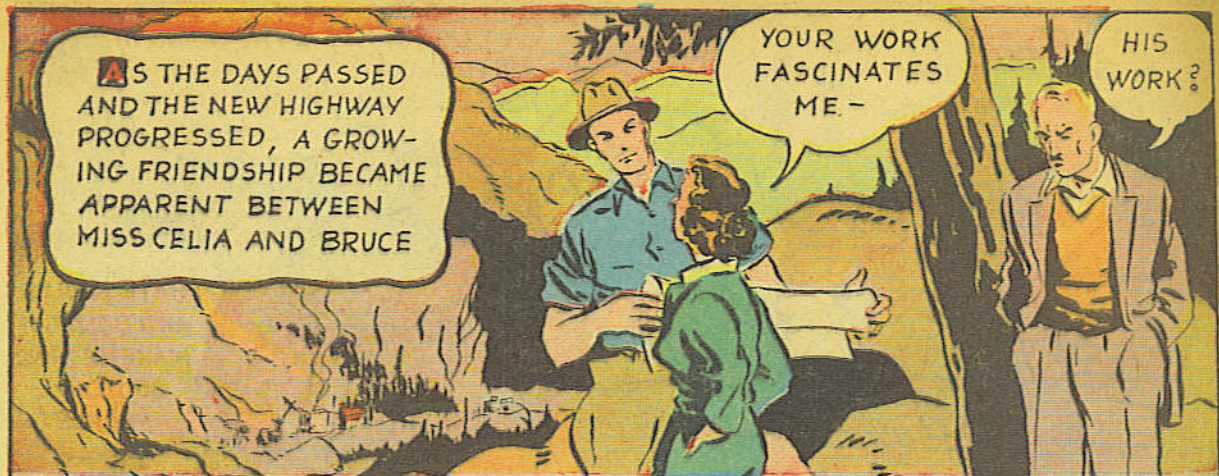
SORRY TO BOTHER,
MISS, BUT THE ELECTRICIANS
HAVEN'T GOT THE CONSTRUCTION
CAMP PHONES RIGGED UP
YET

AFTER PHONING BRUCE ENCOURAGED
CONVERSATION WITH THIS BEAUTIFUL
YOUNG LADY, MISS CELIA CHAMBERS, AND
HE WAS WELL RECEIVED

THIS IS
MR. CLABBER,
MY FIANCE

GLAD
TO MEET
YOU

OH, YES — YES, QUITE SO — BUT
WE SHOULD SEE YOU OFTEN
IF THEY ARE BUILDING A NEW
HIGHWAY THROUGH THE
CANYON AS
YOU SAY



AS THE DAYS PASSED AND THE NEW HIGHWAY PROGRESSED, A GROWING FRIENDSHIP BECAME APPARENT BETWEEN MISS CELIA AND BRUCE

YOUR WORK FASCINATES ME -

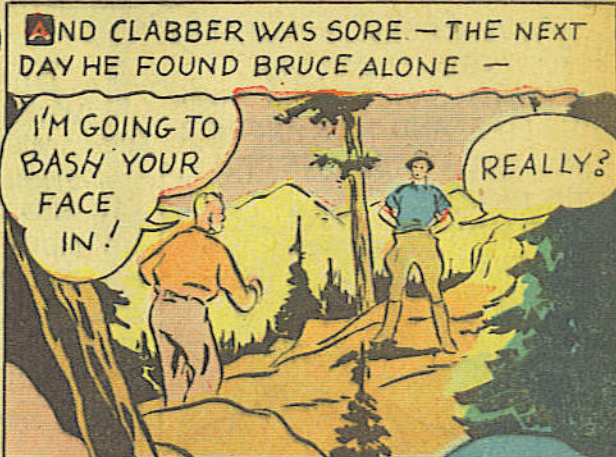
HIS WORK?



THEN ONE NIGHT BRUCE AND CELIA DUCKED CLABBER AND WENT TO A BARN DANCE -

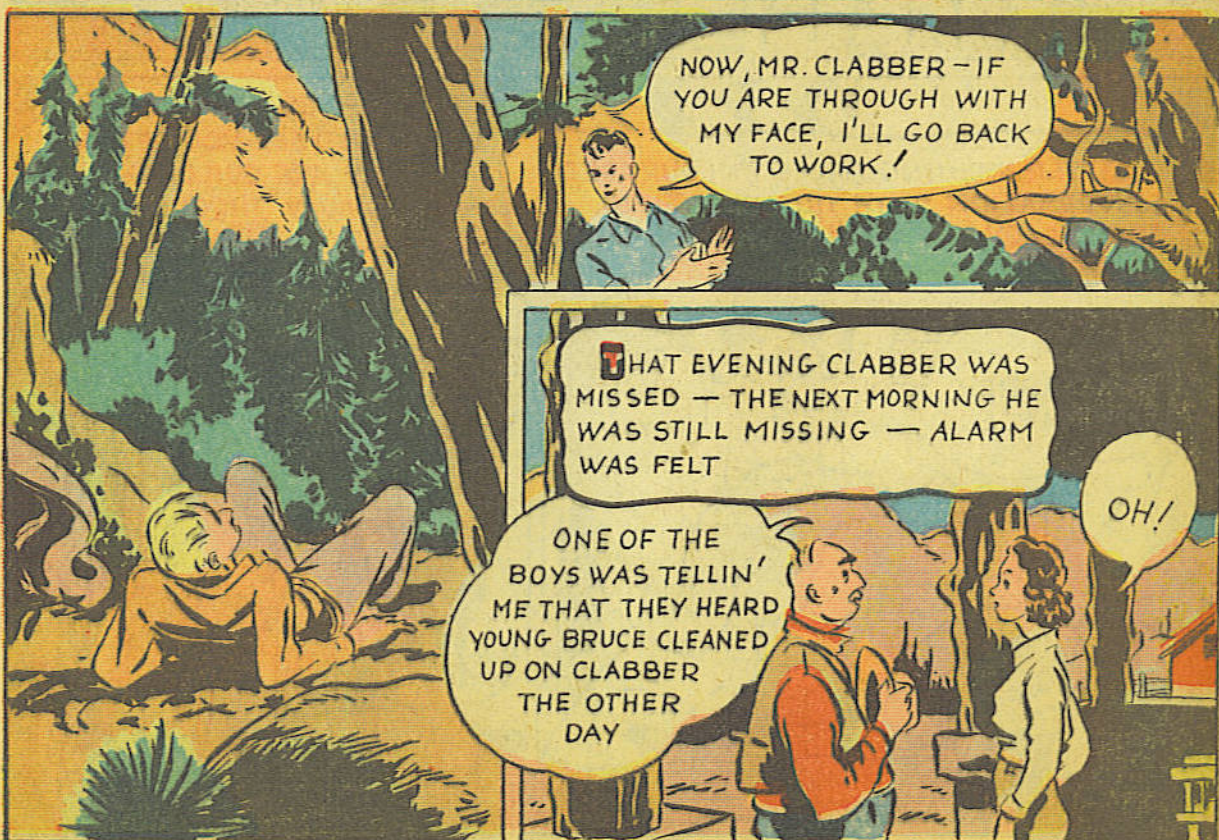
WON'T CLABBER BE SORE!

WE SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT, BRUCE - BUT I'M GLAD



I'M GOING TO BASH YOUR FACE IN!

REALLY?



NOW, MR. CLABBER - IF YOU ARE THROUGH WITH MY FACE, I'LL GO BACK TO WORK!

THAT EVENING CLABBER WAS MISSED - THE NEXT MORNING HE WAS STILL MISSING - ALARM WAS FELT

ONE OF THE BOYS WAS TELLIN' ME THAT THEY HEARD YOUNG BRUCE CLEANED UP ON CLABBER THE OTHER DAY

OH!

A WEEK PASSED AND STILL CLABBER WAS MISSING — THE POLICE GO INTO ACTION

SORRY, BRUCE — BUT WE'LL HAVE TO HOLD YOU —

BRUCE WAS TAKEN TO THE CITY AND QUESTIONED

YOU ADMIT THAT YOU HAD A FIGHT WITH CLABBER, AND YOU

SAY YOU LEFT HIM WITHOUT SERIOUS INJURY — CAN YOU PROVE IT? DID ANYONE SEE YOU?

AFRAID NOT, SIR

NO, YOU CAN'T PROVE IT BECAUSE YOU DELIBERATELY KILLED CLABBER! AND YOU HID HIS BODY OR PUT IT WHERE BLASTING OPERATIONS WOULD BURY IT! DIDN'T YOU?!

NO!
NO!

MONTHS LATER, AFTER A DRAWN OUT TRIAL —

THE JURY FINDS THIS MAN — GUILTY!

AND SO BRUCE BERRY IS FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER, AND HE AWAITS THE TIME OF HIS EXECUTION —

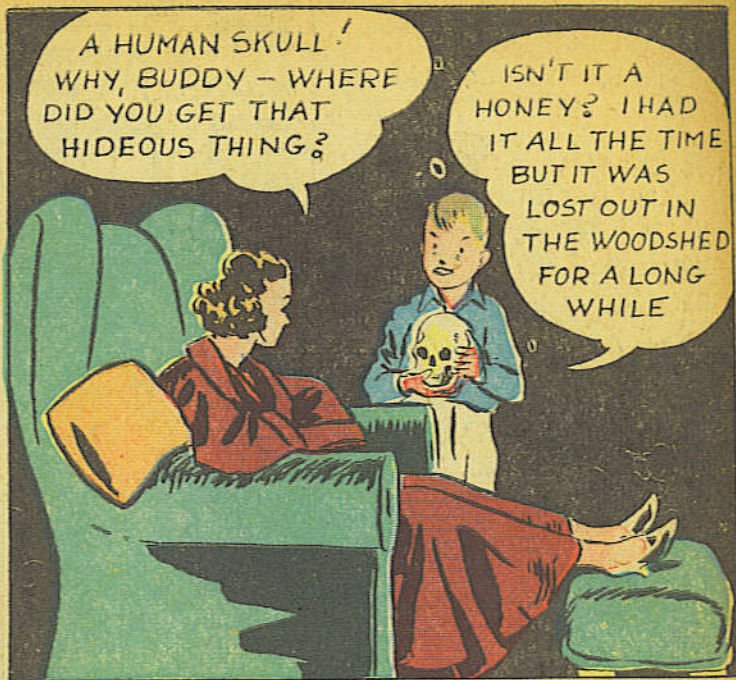
BACK IN THE MOUNTAINS —

MY DEAR DAUGHTER — QUIT YOUR BROODING!

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG, MOTHER — I DON'T BELIEVE BRUCE DID IT —



BOO!

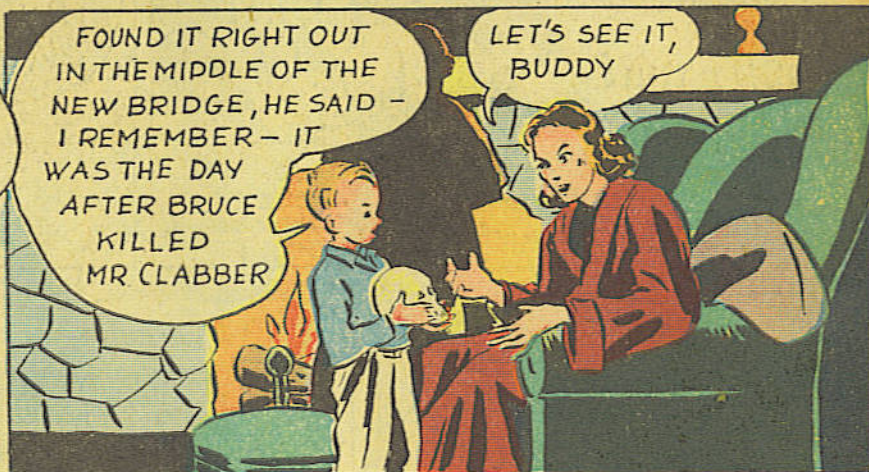


A HUMAN SKULL!
WHY, BUDDY - WHERE
DID YOU GET THAT
HIDEOUS THING?

ISN'T IT A
HONEY? I HAD
IT ALL THE TIME
BUT IT WAS
LOST OUT IN
THE WOODSHED
FOR A LONG
WHILE



LAST SUMMER
WHEN THEY WERE
MAKING THE NEW
HIGHWAY ONE OF THE
WORKMEN MR KELLY
FOUND IT AND
GAVE IT
TO ME -

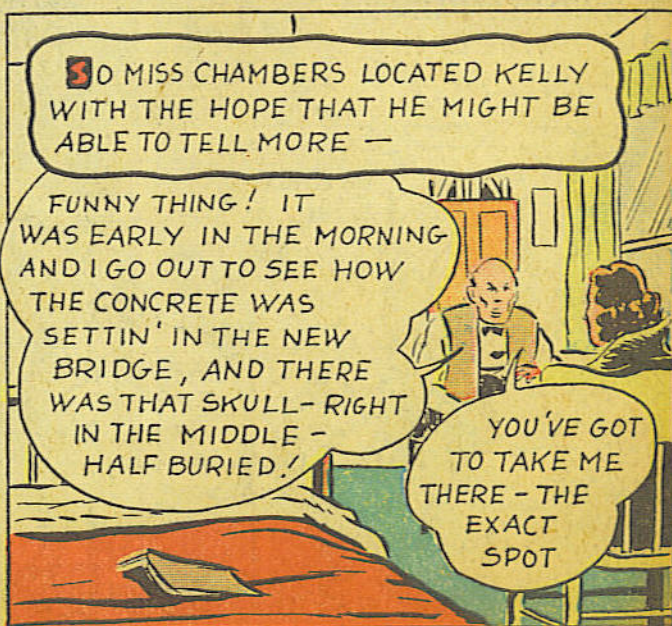


FOUND IT RIGHT OUT
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
NEW BRIDGE, HE SAID -
I REMEMBER - IT
WAS THE DAY
AFTER BRUCE
KILLED
MR CLABBER

LET'S SEE IT,
BUDDY



THE DAY AFTER, HUH?
STRANGE - I WONDER - COULD
THERE BE A CONNECTION?
I'M GOING TO SEE KELLY



SO MISS CHAMBERS LOCATED KELLY
WITH THE HOPE THAT HE MIGHT BE
ABLE TO TELL MORE -

FUNNY THING! IT
WAS EARLY IN THE MORNING
AND I GO OUT TO SEE HOW
THE CONCRETE WAS
SETTIN' IN THE NEW
BRIDGE, AND THERE
WAS THAT SKULL - RIGHT
IN THE MIDDLE -
HALF BURIED!

YOU'VE GOT
TO TAKE ME
THERE - THE
EXACT
SPOT

IT WAS RIGHT HERE,
MISS—YOU CAN SEE HOW
WE PATCHED UP THE
HOLE

HOW WOULD
YOU SAY IT
GOT THERE?

I DUNNO!
NOBODY KNEW
ANYTHING ABOUT
IT

IT WAS HALF BURIED
YOU SAY? THAT WOULD
MEAN IT WAS PUSHED
IN THE SOFT CONCRETE
OR IT FELL WITH
CONSIDERABLE
FORCE—

THERE WERE NO FOOTPRINTS
OR OTHER MARKS ON THE
CONCRETE, SO THAT LETS OUT
THE PUSHING—I FIGGER
SOMEONE WAS JUST MEAN
ENOUGH TO THROW IT IN
THAT FRESH CONCRETE

OR IT MIGHT
HAVE DROPPED—
LOOK HOW THAT
CANYON WALL
OVERHANGS!

LET'S
INVESTIGATE

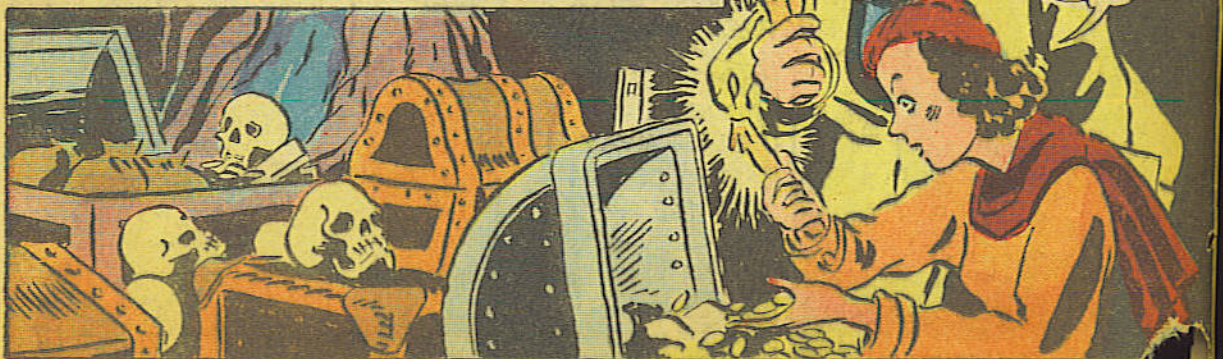
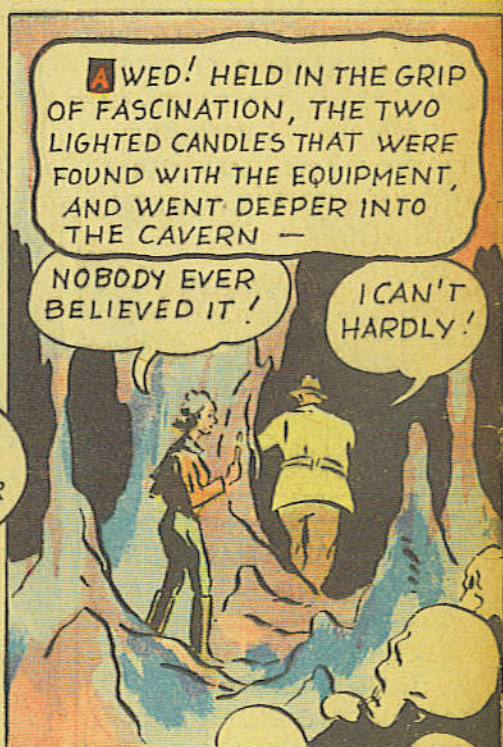
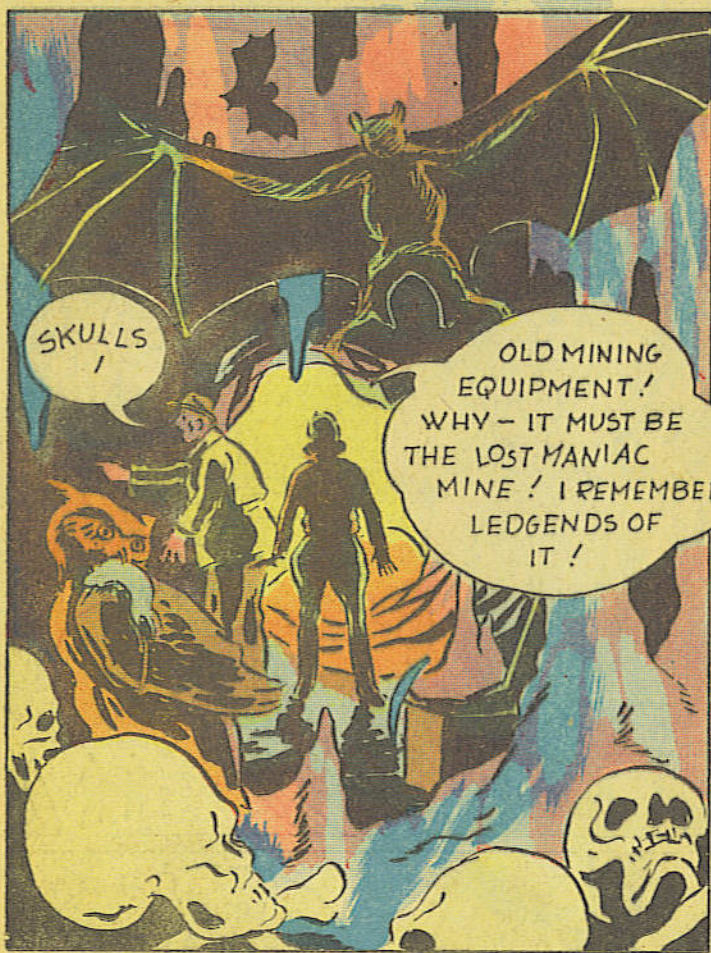
AFTER SEVERAL HOURS
OF CLIMBING—

WELL—I DON'T SEE
ANYTHING UNLESS SOMEONE
STOOD ON THIS SHEER EDGE
AND THREW IT

YES,
IT WOULD
HAVE TO BE
THROWN—IT
WOULD MISS THE
BRIDGE IF JUST
DROPPED

WE HAD TO
BLAST AWAY
PART OF THIS
CLIFF

LOOK!
HERE'S A LEDGE!
LET'S FOLLOW
IT—



RELUCTANTLY AND HIGHLY EXCITED, MISS CHAMBERS AND KELLY RETRACED THEIR STEPS

IT'S FANTASTIC!

ON YOUR PROPERTY TOO, MISS CHAMBERS!

NEARING THE ENTRANCE, CELIA MADE A HORRIBLE DISCOVERY -

KELLY!
LOOK! IT'S CLABBER!

THEIR ELATION WAS TURNED INTO HORROR BY THIS GRUESOME DISCOVERY - THEN, A DARKENING SHADOW SNAPPED THEIR ATTENTION TO THE ENTRANCE

GRIZZLY!

GRRR

THE MONSTEROUS BEAST CHARGED AND KELLY THREW AN ONLY AVAILABLE WEAPON - A HUMAN SKULL! - IT MISSED AND SAILED OUT INTO THE OPEN CANYON -

DON'T STAND THERE! - RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!

THE BEAST MADE SHORT WORK OF BRAVE KELLY, AND THEN TURNED ON CELIA, BUT SHE WAS NEARER THE ENTRANCE, AND SHE RAN AS NEVER BEFORE —



HYSTERICALLY CELIA CONTINUED HER FLIGHT TO THE HOUSE —

THE MONSTER! IT KILLED KELLY — AND CLABBER TOO — DON'T YOU SEE ?!

STOP CRYING —

I'LL GET SOME OF THE NEIGHBORS AND WE'LL HEAD RIGHT UP THERE



THE GRIZZLY WAS SHOT AND THE BODIES OF KELLY AND CLABBER WERE RECOVERED — IN THE CITY CELIA TOLD HER STORY TO THE AUTHORITIES —

AFTER MR. CLABBER HAD HIS FIGHT WITH BRUCE, HE CLIMBED THE MOUNTAIN, PROBABLY TO THINK THINGS OVER, AND HE STUMBLED UPON THE MINE — JUST AS WE DID — THEN THE GRIZZLY SURPRISED HIM — EVERYTHING CHECKS !

YES, THE CONDITION OF CLABBER'S BODY DEFINITELY SHOWS HOW HE MET DEATH — THE SAME AS KELLY



AND SO THE TRUTH WAS BROUGHT TO LIGHT, AND BRUCE'S FREEDOM WAS RESTORED —



YOU'LL STAY AND RUN THE MINE FOR US, WON'T YOU ?

YES, CELIA



AND THAT'S THE STORY OF THE BROKEN SKULL



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